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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 29 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Please find enclosed the text of the "Position of the Croat Leadership regarding the process of deconstituization of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina" (see annex). The document addresses the changing sentiment of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Croats concerning the status of implementation of the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement and also recommends ways to upgrade the Accords for the benefit of all three communities and the country as a whole.

Upon the instruction of the Office of the Croat Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, may I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

The letter has also been presented to the High Representative and to the diplomatic community in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Position of the Croat Leadership regarding the process of deconstituization of Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In order to secure self-sustaining peace in and the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in order for the peoples and citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to become active participants in changes and the possible acceleration of the peace process, and in order for Bosnia and Herzegovina to draw closer to Euro-Atlantic integration while promoting a true - rather than a chimerical - multi-ethnic status, which can best be measured by the position of the smallest constituent community in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the political leadership of the Croat community in Bosnia and Herzegovina finds it necessary to proceed from the following assessment of the situation and these recommendations:

1. The Bosnia and Herzegovina Croat leadership seeks to integrate the Croat community, as constituent and equal, into a democratic, decentralized and multinational Bosnia and Herzegovina. This can be accomplished successfully only if the Croat community becomes an equal partner with real influence on the process of integration. Integration must not be a process in which a nation disappears, but precisely an opposite process, in which every nation, thanks to its centuries-old cultural, religious, linguistic and other characteristics, can find its rightful place in an integrated Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a united Europe.

2. The constitutivity of all three nations on the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, coupled with a relevant constitutional-legal and territorial framework, by which the standardization of the rights of all three peoples is secured, while maintaining parity and consensus at the State level, can, in the long term, assure a self-sustaining and prosperous Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this context, the political leadership of the Croat community in Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to do all it can to secure a constitutional-legal position for the Croats, as a precondition for their survival and unhindered development, in an atmosphere of coexistence and tolerance with the other two peoples and other citizens in a truly multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. Croats, along with Bosniaks and Serbs, are constituent peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina.[a] The Constitution recognizes this equality. The Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement, however, began a process of unequal or unstandardized treatment of the three constituent units in the country. It gave the Serb community the greatest powers and rights through the Republika Srpska entity, and de facto the same rights to the Bosniak community through the Federation entity.[b]

4. Since the signing of the Peace Agreement, the international community has advocated improvements in these constitutional arrangements. But instead of upgrading the rights and powers of the Croat community and making it a more equal partner of the Serbs and Bosniaks in the building of a common State, the international community has regrettably taken steps to limit them and, in effect, deconstituted the Croats. Instead of giving Croats a stake in Bosnia

and Herzegovina and motivating them to use all of their energies to build the State, the international community through these actions is further alienating them. Not surprisingly Croat support for the Federation and a unified State has declined dramatically.[c]

5. This process of deconstituization began when the mechanism of special relations with neighbouring States, which was an integral element of the Peace Agreement that was intended primarily to bolster the viability of the smallest community, was downgraded and effectively eliminated.[d] This process was intensified by attempts to limit the powers of cantons in areas such as education, language, media, policing and the use of symbols. The process has continued to the detriment of the Croats after they were denied the right to establish a nationwide television channel in their own language. The television policy is being reconsidered thanks to the intervention of the High Representative, and the final decision must result in standardizing this right for all three communities.

6. This clear trend towards deconstituization exposes efforts to unitarize and centralize the Federation, especially in the areas of judicial and internal affairs. Outvoting of the Croat members of the Federation Government and its deputies in the House of Representatives of the Federation Parliament has become a commonplace practice; and here we refer to outvoting on questions of vital national interest.[e] This practice must urgently cease. One possible solution would involve the rotation of the premier and vice-premier as well as granting the right of vote to vice-ministers. Further revocation of cantonal rights and their transfer to the Federation is not acceptable; moreover, this is contrary to modern democratic practice.

7. On the State level, another negative process that is supported by the Bosniak leadership is developing, with the ultimate goal of eliminating the principle of consensus and parity in the common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This would result in a State which is dominated by one nation: a one-party State. This refers in particular to the Council of Ministers, or the decision by the Constitutional Court regarding the harmonization of the Law on the Council of Ministers with the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and thereby the possible reform of the Council of Ministers. Neither the legal harmonization nor the possible restructuring of the Council should be allowed to bring into question the parity and consensus in the structure and decision-making mechanism of the Council. We take a strong view that a precondition for the survival of Bosnia and Herzegovina lies in maintaining consensus and parity within common institutions.

8. Nonetheless, the constituent right of the Croats to elect their own officials, or to be represented by persons of their own choosing, is still the major issue to be addressed. The present draft election law continues this process of deconstituization by bringing into question the only two remaining institutions that the Croat community has in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The preferential voting system for the election of the Croat member of the Presidency will make it even more attractive for Bosniaks to vote the Croatian ballot, and thus to deconstitute the Croats.[f] Similarly, the present draft would give the Bosniaks the power to designate the majority of the Croat seats in the constituent chamber of the entity and State Houses of Peoples. This allows only

the Bosniaks and Serbs to have this institution of legislative veto power, with the Croats thus being singularly deconstituted in the legislative process. Therefore, the Croats may be deconstituted in all three areas envisioned to exercise, check and balance power in the State's executive, legislative and judicial branches.

9. The present draft is also counterproductive in several other ways. It seeks to elect Croat representatives who have marginal or no support at all, or those that will have no influence on or contact with the Croat community. This arrangement benefits no one. Furthermore, the present draft would unintentionally establish the Federation as a one-party, or de facto a uninational entity. In a country where the electorate votes almost exclusively along ethnic lines, the international community is advocating an election law which will establish the Federation as a one-party, Bosniak entity.[g]

10. The democratically elected Croat leadership is responsible to an electorate for protecting its constitutional rights and for securing institutions which will make the Croat community an equal partner in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the mechanisms and precedents in the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement. In our view, the draft election law for the Serb community, through the Republika Srpska entity, strikes an appropriate balance between the dual goals of the Peace Agreement: (a) to respect national/constituent rights and (b) to build a civil society.[h] The electorate for Serb institutions consists of 80 per cent Serbs and 20 per cent non-Serbs. The Croat leadership is willing to accept the draft election law if the electorate for the Croat community is constituted in a similar way. This balanced solution would also pluralize the Bosniak community, which has no non-Bosniak influence on its politics. To the contrary, this community is so large that it can shift its voters to elect Croat representatives as need be.

11. The Croatian leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to believe that the international community should assist it in finding ways to enfranchise the Croatian community into Bosnia and Herzegovina.[i] The international community should find ways to harmonize the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement in terms of standardizing institutions for all three communities so that the Croats can also develop a stake in Bosnia and Herzegovina as the other two communities already have.

12. Today, 70 per cent of all decisions in Europe are made at the regional level and the decision-making process regarding its development grows ever closer to the people whose interests are directly affected by these decisions. While these regions form around various principles, they respect each region's cultural, linguistic, historical and economic characteristics. The principle of subsidiarity allows for each region to engage in activities and to exercise their authority towards both the State and wider regional associations. The development of Europe points in the direction of further regionalization under these principles. Bosnia and Herzegovina as a multinational State should adopt this positive experience of European regionalism. The Croat community therefore calls for the adoption of these principles, which can integrate it into both Bosnia and Herzegovina and Europe.

13. If this obvious and negative process of deconstituization of the smallest community is not urgently reversed on the basis of these solutions, the Croat leadership and the Croat people in Bosnia and Herzegovina reserve their legitimate right to unilaterally decide what modalities to pursue in order to protect their rights as a sovereign and constituent people as granted to them by the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

21 January 2000.

Notes

[a] The term "constituent" or "constitutive", or sometimes "sovereign", is understood to refer to rights and powers of a people to establish their own institutions, to elect and designate their own representatives, to enact and change laws and the Constitution, to levy taxes, and assert self-determination.

[b] See non-paper of 18 March 1999, p. 7, para. 1. The Republika Srpska received enormous power mechanisms in the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement in terms of institutions, territory, army, media, symbols and other rights. Given that the entities are constituted on civil society principles, and given that the Bosniaks have a 3:1 numerical superiority in the Bosniak-Croat entity, and the voting practices are along ethnic lines, the Federation has become a de facto Bosniak entity.

[c] See non-paper of 13 March 1999, exhibits 1 and 2, on pp. 10-11. Only one third of Croats now support the Federation and a unified State; down from two thirds in 1996. See also the latest survey of public opinion in Bosnia and Herzegovina (United States, Department of State, Office of Research, 22 November 1999). Conversely, the support for a unified State in the Serb community is steadily increasing, from 5 per cent to almost 30 per cent. The Serb community supports the State more and more as it recognizes its stake in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the institutions it has.

[d] See non-paper of 18 March 1999, p. 8, para. 8. The Croat leadership insists on wide formalization of the special relations between the Federation and Croatia. However, it is willing to re-examine this mechanism if the Peace Agreement is harmonized in a positive direction. We should recall that the Washington accords, by which the Federation was established, envisioned a confederal relationship between the Federation and Croatia - a substantially stronger relationship than now envisioned by special relations. Even these softer relations are proving difficult to implement and are being ever more downgraded.

[e] Inconsistency in the make-up of the Federation Government is reinforced by certain decisions of the international community. For example, the principle of consensus is instituted in mixed cantons and the principle of protecting the vital national interest is being instituted in certain municipalities with strong majorities, while these principles are denied at the level of the Federation Government.

[f] More than one third of voters casting a Croat Presidency ballot in the last election were non-Croats, mostly Bosniaks. The number of non-Bosniaks casting a Bosniak ballot appears to have been negligible, and reflects an unacceptable imbalance in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[g] See last elections results in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina House of Representatives: SDA-led coalition received 49 per cent of the votes/seats. Given the unique voting pattern, this effectively assures the Bosniaks permanent governance of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the SDA the primacy in forming governments. Croat parties received a mere 22 per cent of the votes/seats.

[h] The pluralization of Republika Srpska in terms of party activity and the appearance of pro-Dayton progressive politicians developed only after the Serb community realized its national rights through the Republika Srpska entity and institutions. The same is true for the Bosniak community. The Croat community will also become pluralized once its constituent rights are assured, or a stake in Bosnia and Herzegovina becomes real. According to the findings of the United States Information Agency, the question of national rights is the most important - or the second most important - issue for all three communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with economic development.

[i] In this way the net outflow of Croats from Bosnia and Herzegovina since the signing of the Peace Agreement would be reversed; it would motivate their return. Croats merit this because their majority areas have taken back the largest number of minority returnees. Since the signing of the Dayton-Paris Peace Agreement to 30 November 1999, 38 per cent of pre-war non-Croats have returned to the Croat-majority areas, while this ratio stands at 10 per cent for the Bosniak-majority areas, and 4 per cent for the Serb-majority areas. The Republika Srpska now houses only about 5 per cent of its 1991 non-Serb population. Twenty per cent of the 1991 Croats no longer live in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (central Bosnia), while the number of Bosniaks in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has increased by 350,000 since 1991. For these reasons the implementation of Annex 7 and the return of Croats are critical.

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Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone

Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the financial performance report of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) for the period from its inception on 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. The General Assembly, by its resolution 53/29 of 20 November 1998, appropriated $22 million gross ($21,279,800 net) for the establishment and operation of the Observer Mission for this period, including $783,700 gross ($768,100 net) for the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

From this appropriation, $16,167,100 gross ($15,706,550 net) has been assessed on Member States.

Expenditures for the period totalled $12,883,800 gross ($12,397,000 net), resulting in an unutilized balance of appropriations of $9,116,200 gross ($8,882,800 net). The unutilized balance of assessments amounted to $3,283,300 gross ($3,309,550 net).

The unutilized balance of appropriations was attributable to the overall scaling back of operations of the Observer Mission during the reporting period as a consequence of the outbreak of hostilities in Freetown in mid-December 1998 and early January 1999, which led to the evacuation of UNOMSIL to Conakry and to the subsequent downsizing of the Mission's military and civilian components.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNOMSIL are set out in paragraph 14 of the present report.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL) was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998 for an initial period of six months. The mandate entrusted to UNOMSIL was extended by subsequent Security Council resolutions, with its provisional expansion authorized by resolution 1260 (1999) of 20 August 1999. By its resolution 1270 (1999) of 22 October 1999, the Council established the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and decided that UNAMSIL would take over the substantive civilian and military components of UNOMSIL and that the mandate of the Observer Mission should terminate with the establishment of UNAMSIL.

2. In order to meet the most immediate start-up requirements relating to the establishment and operation of UNOMSIL, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in a letter dated 13 August 1998 addressed to the Secretary-General, concurred in the Controller's request to enter into commitments for UNOMSIL in the amount of $10,624,200 gross ($10,409,500 net) for a four-month period from 13 July to 13 November 1998.

3. The proposed budget for the establishment and operation of UNOMSIL for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 was subsequently set out in the report of the Secretary-General dated 2 October 1998 (A/53/454), and amounted to $24,323,500 gross ($23,472,800 net), inclusive of the commitment authority. It provided for the phased deployment of 188 military and civilian personnel consisting of 70 military observers, a 15-person medical unit and 5 civilian police advisers supported by 50 international and 48 local staff, as well as for the non-recurrent requirements for the start-up of the Mission such as acquisition of vehicles, communications, data-processing and other equipment.

4. By its resolution 53/29 of 20 November 1998, the General Assembly, based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report dated 10 November 1998 (A/53/654), appropriated and authorized the assessment of $22 million gross ($21,279,800 net) for the establishment and operation of UNOMSIL for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, inclusive of the cost of deploying military and civilian personnel in the amount of $783,700 gross ($768,100 net) for the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998 and the amount of $10,624,200 gross ($10,409,500 net) in commitment authorization granted previously by the Advisory Committee (see para. 2 above).

II. Implementation of the budget

5. Information on the operations of UNOMSIL and on the situation on the ground during the period under review is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dated 12 August 1998 (S/1998/750), 16 October 1998 (S/1998/960), 16 December 1998 (S/1998/1176), 7 January 1999 (S/1999/20), 4 March 1999 (S/1999/237) and 4 June 1999 (S/1999/645).

6. As described briefly in paragraphs 7 to 9 below, developments on the ground during the period under review have had a significant impact on the implementation of the UNOMSIL budget, resulting in unforeseen profound changes in the operational requirements of the Mission and the concomitant significant

underutilization of the appropriation provided for UNOMSIL by the General Assembly.

7. Following its establishment by the Security Council, despite the prevailing hostile environment and logistical constraints, UNOMSIL, by the end of August 1998, had completed the first phase of the deployment of its military component, consisting of 40 military observers and a medical team of 15 personnel. The Mission's civilian police complement, comprising 5 police advisers, had attained its full authorized strength by mid-December 1998, while the strength of the Mission's international and local staff by that time had reached 47 and 48 personnel respectively, representing an incumbency rate of 94 and 100 per cent. Concurrently, in order to meet its immediate operational requirements, the Mission procured and took delivery of essential transport, communication, data-processing and other equipment, and entered into contractual arrangements for the deployment of a medium utility helicopter and a light passenger fixed-wing aircraft. Expenditures incurred by the Mission during this period were fully consistent with the budgetary assumptions and were based on the approved appropriation.

8. In view of the deteriorating security situation, however, UNOMSIL was unable to proceed to the second phase of the deployment of military observers to bring the component to its full authorized strength of 70 personnel. Moreover, following the intensification of hostilities, culminating in the rebel attacks on Freetown, the Mission was obliged initially to relocate non-essential staff, and subsequently all military and civilian personnel, many of its vehicles and much of its equipment, to Conakry. The evacuation of UNOMSIL to Guinea was completed in early January 1999 and was accompanied by the repatriation to their home countries of all the police advisers and 47 military personnel, with only 8 observers remaining. Furthermore, the Mission's international civilian component was downsized to 25 personnel, and only 8 local staff were retained from the authorized strength of 48, a reduction of 47 and 83 per cent respectively. While the Mission incurred unforeseen expenditures during the January to March 1999 period in connection with the establishment of a temporary headquarters in Conakry for the rental of office accommodations, daily subsistence allowance, bank charges and air and surface freight, those costs were offset by the overall significant reduction of requirements under all of the main budget groups and non-utilization of resources provided for the infrastructure repairs and naval operations.

9. In the aftermath of the rebel attack, following the intervention of the Monitoring Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG), which expelled the rebels and regained control of Freetown, UNOMSIL engaged in intensive political consultations in the region and initiated or participated in a series of diplomatic efforts aimed at the peaceful settlement of the conflict in Sierra Leone. With the signing of the ceasefire agreement and the inception of talks between the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front, conditions were created for the restoration of the Mission's strength to the level authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1181 (1998). By the end of May 1999, with 14 military observers and 35 international and 24 local staff on the ground, UNOMSIL had re-established its presence in Freetown.

III. Financial performance report for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

10. As indicated in table 1, from the appropriation of $22 million gross ($21,279,800 net) for the establishment and operation of UNOMSIL for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, expenditures amounted to $12,883,800 gross ($12,397,000 net), inclusive of $3,305,800 in unliquidated obligations. The resulting unutilized balance of $9,116,200 gross ($8,882,800 net) represents, in gross terms, approximately 41 per cent of the amount appropriated. Annex I to the present report contains the financial performance information for the reporting period by budget line item, with supplementary information on significant variances presented in annex II. Annex IV contains a chart showing apportionment and expenditure for the main budget groups.

Table 1
Apportionment and expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*[a]	*Variance*
Military personnel	4 176.1	2 116.0	2 060.1
Civilian personnel	7 153.0	4 761.9	2 391.1
Operational requirements	9 931.4	5 518.6	4 412.8
Other programmes	19.3	0.5	18.8
United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	-	-	-
Support account for peacekeeping operations	-	-	-
Staff assessment	720.2	486.8	233.4
Gross requirements	**22 000.0**	**12 883.8**	**9 116.2**
Income from staff assessment	(720.2)	(486.8)	(233.4)
Net requirements	**21 279.8**	**12 397.0**	**8 882.8**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	-	-	-
Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	-	-	-
Total resources	**22 000.0**	**12 883.8**	**9 116.2**

[a] Includes $3,305,800 in unliquidated obligations and $734,100 gross ($723,100 net) pertaining to the deployment of military and civilian personnel from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

11. Information on the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the reporting period is provided in table 2 and annex III.

Table 2
Authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for military and civilian personnel for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

Personnel category	*Authorized strength*	*Actual strength (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military observers[a]	85	32	62
Military contingents	-	-	-
Civilian police	5	2[b]	70
International staff	50	34	32
Local staff	48	23	52
United Nations Volunteers	-	-	-

[a] Includes 15 medical personnel.
[b] Rounded.

12. In view of the evacuation of UNOMSIL from Sierra Leone and the substantial scaling back of its operations as described above, it was determined during the period that there would likely be significant underutilization of the approved appropriation. On the basis of this conclusion, it was decided not to assess Member States for the full amount of the approved appropriation for the 1998/99 financial period.

13. The amount actually assessed of $16,167,100 gross ($15,706,550 net) corresponds to the extension of the Mission's mandate until 13 March 1999 by the Security Council in its resolution 1220 (1999) of 12 January 1999 and represents the prorated share for the period from 13 July 1998 to 13 March 1999 of the full 12-month appropriation for UNOMSIL. Compared with expenditures for the 1998/99 period of $12,883,800 gross ($12,397,000 net), the resulting unutilized balance of assessments amounts to $3,283,300 gross ($3,309,550 net). A summary of the financial resources provided to UNOMSIL for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 is shown in table 3.

Table 3
Financial resources provided to UNOMSIL for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999
(United States dollars)

	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)=(2)-(3)*
	Appropriation[a]	*Amount assessed*	*Expenditure*	*Unutilized balance of assessments*
Gross	22 000 000	16 167 100	12 883 800	3 283 300
Net	21 279 800	15 706 550	12 397 000	3 309 550

[a] From General Assembly resolution 53/29.

IV. Action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

14. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of UNOMSIL are:

(a) A reduction in the appropriation provided in Assembly resolution 53/29 for the establishment and operation of the Observer Mission for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 from $22 million gross ($21,279,800 net) to $16,167,100 gross ($15,706,550 net), corresponding to the amount actually assessed on Member States;

(b) A decision on the treatment of the unutilized balance of $3,283,300 gross ($3,309,550 net), based on the reduced appropriation recommended in subparagraph (a) above.

Annex I

Financial performance report for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999: summary statement

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure		*(1)* *Apportionment*[a]	*(2)* *Non-recurrent expenditures*	*(3)* *Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)*[b]	*(4)=(1)-(3)* *Variance*
I.	**Military personnel**				
1.	Military observers	4 143.3	-	2 093.9	2 049.4
2.	Military contingents	-	-	-	-
3.	Other requirements pertaining to military personnel				
	(a) Contingent-owned equipment	-	-	-	-
	(b) Self-sustainment	-	-	-	-
	(c) Death and disability compensation	32.8	-	22.1	10.7
	Total, category I	**4 176.1**	**-**	**2 116.0**	**2 060.1**
II.	**Civilian personnel**				
1.	Civilian police	281.5	-	106.0	175.5
2.	International and local staff	6 871.5	-	4 655.9	2 215.6
3.	United Nations Volunteers	-	-	-	-
4.	Government-provided personnel	-	-	-	-
5.	Civilian electoral observers	-	-	-	-
	Total, category II	**7 153.0**	**-**	**4 761.9**	**2 391.1**
III.	**Operational requirements**				
1.	Premises/accommodation	1 132.7	105.2	234.8	897.9
2.	Infrastructure repairs	110.0	-	-	110.0
3.	Transport operations	1 591.3	965.5	1 099.6	491.7
4.	Air operations	1 595.5	63.0	1 294.2	301.3
5.	Naval operations	80.0	-	-	80.0
6.	Communications	3 732.0	1 654.7	1 858.0	1 874.0
7.	Other equipment	1 172.2	705.7	719.9	452.3
8.	Supplies and services	496.8	-	256.4	240.4
9.	Air and surface freight				
	(a) Transport of contingent-owned equipment	-	-	-	-
	(b) Commercial freight and cartage	20.9	-	55.7	(34.8)
	Subtotal, line 9	**20.9**	**-**	**55.7**	**(34.8)**
	Total, category III	**9 931.4**	**3 494.1**	**5 518.6**	**4 412.8**

Category of expenditure	(1) Apportionment[a]	(2) Non-recurrent expenditures	(3) Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)[b]	(4)=(1)-(3) Variance
IV. Other programmes				
1. Election-related supplies and services	-	-	-	-
2. Public information programmes	19.3	0.5	0.5	18.8
3. Training programmes	-	-	-	-
4. Mine-clearing programmes	-	-	-	-
5. Assistance for disarmament and demobilization	-	-	-	-
Total, category IV	**19.3**	**0.5**	**0.5**	**18.8**
V. United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi	-	-	-	-
VI. Support account for peacekeeping operations	-	-	-	-
VII. Staff assessment	**720.2**	-	**486.8**	**233.4**
Gross requirements, categories I-VII	22 000.0	3 494.6	12 883.8	9 116.2
VIII. Income from staff assessment	**(720.2)**	-	**(486.8)**	**(233.4)**
Net requirements, categories I-VIII	21 279.8	3 494.6	12 397.0	8 882.8
IX. Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	-	-	-	-
X. Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	-	-	-	-
Total	**22 000.0**	**3 494.6**	**12 883.8**	**9 116.2**

[a] Based on the appropriation provided in General Assembly resolution 53/29.

[b] Includes an amount of $734,100 gross ($723,100 net) pertaining to the deployment of military and civilian personnel from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

Annex II

Supplementary information on significant variances

Military personnel

Apportionment: $4,176,100; expenditure: $2,116,000; variance: $2,060,100

1. The unutilized balance of $2,060,100 under this heading was attributable to reduced requirements under mission subsistence allowance ($1,777,900), travel ($263,500), clothing and equipment allowance ($8,000) and death and disability compensation ($10,700) resulting from the evacuation in January 1999 of military observers and medical personnel from Freetown and their subsequent repatriation to home countries. As shown in table 2 and annex III, the average vacancy rate for military personnel during the period under review was 62 per cent, with the average incumbency level of 32 against the authorized strength of 85 personnel. The budgetary assumption was based on phased deployment, with military personnel fully deployed by mid-December 1998.

2. The reported expenditure includes $170,600 ($110,500 for mission subsistence allowance and $60,100 for travel) pertaining to the deployment of military observers during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

Civilian personnel

Apportionment: $7,153,000; expenditure: $4,761,900; variance: $2,391,100

3. The unutilized balance of $2,391,100 under this heading was attributable to the repatriation of most international civilian personnel and the termination of local staff contracts following the evacuation of the Observer Mission to Conakry, in early 1999, resulting in reduced requirements under civilian police ($175,500) and international and local staff ($2,215,600).

Civilian police

Apportionment: $281,500; expenditure: $106,000; variance: $175,500

4. While the full complement of five civilian police advisers had been deployed to UNOMSIL by November 1998, all advisers were repatriated in January 1999 to their home countries following the outbreak of hostilities in Sierra Leone. The unutilized balance of $175,500 under this heading was attributable to savings under mission subsistence allowance ($154,100) and clothing and equipment allowance ($500) as well as to lower actual travel costs ($20,900). An amount of $3,600 included in expenditures pertains to the deployment of one civilian police adviser during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

International and local staff

Apportionment: $6,871,500; expenditure: $4,655,900; variance: $2,215,600

5. The unutilized balance of $2,215,600 under this heading was attributable to the average vacancy rate of 32 per cent for international staff and 52 per cent for local staff. The budgetary assumption was based on the phased deployment of international and local staff with full deployment being achieved by November and

September 1998 respectively. As shown in table 2 and annex III, the average incumbency level for international and local staff during the period under review was 34 and 23 personnel respectively, against the authorized staffing establishment of 50 international and 48 local posts.

6. While the Mission incurred additional expenditures of $7,600 for the hiring of daily labour during its deployment to Freetown and subsequently during its re-establishment, those costs were absorbed within the approved resources. With regard to travel costs, although the UNOMSIL travel programme underwent substantial changes owing to the need for extensive unforeseen travel to the countries members of the Economic Community of West African States and to United Nations Headquarters in New York for political consultations and negotiations, the total expenditure of $242,500 for official travel remained within the budgeted provision of $264,200.

7. Expenditures under this heading include $256,000 ($53,800 for international and $16,000 for local staff salaries, $59,700 for common staff costs, $101,500 for mission subsistence allowance and $25,000 for travel) pertaining to the deployment of civilian personnel during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

Operational requirements

Apportionment: $9,931,400; expenditure: $5,518,600; variance: $4,412,800

8. The unutilized balance of $4,412,800 resulted from savings totalling $4,447,600 for all budget line items under this heading, partially offset by additional requirements for air and surface freight ($34,800).

Premises/accommodation

Apportionment: $1,132,700; expenditure: $234,800; variance: $897,900

9. The unutilized balance of $897,900 under this heading was attributable primarily to substantially reduced requirements for utilities and rental of premises owing to the cancellation of rental leases ($192,000) in the aftermath of the Mission's evacuation from Freetown and to the minimal consumption of generator fuel ($670,500), the provision for which was based on the planned deployment of UNOMSIL to outlying regions of the country. Expenditures under this heading include $24,100 pertaining mainly to the rental of office facilities and utilities in connection with the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

Transport operations

Apportionment: $1,591,300; expenditure: $1,099,600; variance: $491,700

10. The unutilized balance of $491,700 under this heading was attributable primarily to reduced requirements for spare parts, repairs and maintenance ($104,100) and for petrol, oil and lubricants ($301,700), as well as to the non-utilization of the provision for workshop tools and equipment ($34,400). In the aftermath of the Mission's evacuation from Freetown and the subsequent downsizing of its civilian and military components, most of the Mission's fleet of vehicles had been operationally inactive, resulting in significantly lower than

budgeted fuel consumption and acquisition of automotive spare parts. Unforeseen additional requirements of $5,300 for the rental of heavy cranes during the re-establishment of the Mission in Freetown had been absorbed within the approved resources.

11. Actual expenditure of $965,400 for the acquisition of 56 vehicles (52 4x4 general-purpose vehicles, 1 heavy sedan and 3 light buses), as well as freight charges for the transfer of vehicles from the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola, resulted in an unencumbered balance of $55,000 under this budget line item. Included in the expenditures is $100,500 for air freight ($85,800), rental of vehicles ($10,400) and petrol, oil and lubricants ($4,300) in connection with the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

Air operations

Apportionment: $1,595,500; expenditure: $1,294,200; variance: $301,300

12. The unutilized balance of $301,300 under this heading was attributable to reduced requirements for the hire of the MI-8 medium utility helicopter ($198,100) and the B-200 Beechcraft light passenger fixed-wing aircraft ($147,000) and aircrew subsistence allowance ($5,500), which were partially offset by additional requirements under other air operations costs ($49,300).

13. Owing to the developments in Sierra Leone during the period under review, actual flight hours utilized by the helicopter (452.8) and fixed-wing aircraft (310.2) were below the budgeted estimate (790.5 and 570 flight hours respectively), resulting in the unutilized balance under hire/charter costs and aviation fuel. While the Mission incurred additional expenditure for the positioning ($6,000) and painting ($1,000) of a fixed-wing aircraft following the award of a contract to a new carrier in April 1999, those costs were absorbed within the approved resources. With regard to other air operation costs, additional unforeseen requirements of $49,300 were attributable to payment of navigation, landing and ground-handling fees and payments to the authorities of the Conakry airport, where the Mission's aircraft were relocated in January 1999.

Communications

Apportionment: $3,732,000; expenditure: $1,858,000; variance: $1,874,000

14. The unutilized balance of $1,874,000 under this heading was attributable to reduced requirements for communication equipment ($1,131,600), as well as to minimal purchases of spare parts and supplies ($229,500) and the non-utilization of the provision for workshop and test equipment ($155,200). Owing to the evacuation of the Mission and the downsizing of its civilian and military components, provision for commercial communications also remained underutilized ($357,700). Expenditures under this heading included $86,400 for acquisition of communication equipment ($79,400) and commercial communications ($7,000) in connection with the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

Other equipment

Apportionment: $1,172,200; expenditure: $719,900; variance: $452,300

15. Acquisition of office furniture and equipment and data-processing, accommodation and miscellaneous equipment, as well as requirements for spare parts, repairs and maintenance during the period under review were limited to the initial start-up requirements and resulted in unutilized balances totalling $452,300 under all categories of equipment. Expenditure of $59,800 pertains to the acquisition of office furniture as well as data-processing equipment and generators in connection with the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

Supplies and services

Apportionment: $496,800; expenditure: $256,400; variance: $240,400

16. The net unutilized balance totalling $240,400 under miscellaneous supplies ($154,800) and services ($85,600) was due primarily to lower requirements under most of the budget line items owing to the evacuation of UNOMSIL from Sierra Leone and the downsizing of its civilian and military components. The unutilized balance was partially offset by additional requirements under data-processing services ($1,800), reflecting the UNOMSIL share of the computerized payroll system upgrade to ensure year-2000 compliance; claims and adjustment ($31,400) with respect to claims from UNOMSIL staff members for loss of personal belongings during the outbreak of hostilities in Freetown; official hospitality ($1,700), reflecting actual expenditure in connection with the intensified political activities during the reporting period; miscellaneous other services ($19,900) due to high bank charges in the region, particularly during the evacuation of the Mission; and stationery and office supplies ($4,100) due to the replenishment of supplies destroyed during the hostilities in Freetown and the purchase of additional stationery and office supplies for the evacuated Mission in Conakry.

17. Included under this heading was an amount of $22,100 ($9,000 for miscellaneous services and $13,100 for miscellaneous supplies) pertaining to the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the period from 17 April to 12 July 1998.

Air and surface freight

Apportionment: $20,900; expenditure: $55,700; variance: ($34,800)

18. Additional requirements of $34,800 under this heading were attributable to unforeseen expenditures during the Mission's evacuation and re-establishment as well as to customs clearance and freight-forwarding charges for shipments routed through Conakry, to be forwarded on to UNOMSIL owing to the lack of freight-handling services in Freetown.

Other programmes

Apportionment: $19,300; expenditure: $500; variance: $18,800

19. As a result of the instability in the peace process in Sierra Leone, the public information programme developed for the Mission was not implemented. An

expenditure of $500 was incurred for contractual services in connection with the television coverage of the signing ceremony at the Lomé peace talks.

Staff assessment

Apportionment: $720,200; expenditure: $486,800; variance: $233,400

20. The unutilized balance of $233,400 under this heading was due to vacancy rates of 32 and 52 per cent for international and local staff.

Income from staff assessment

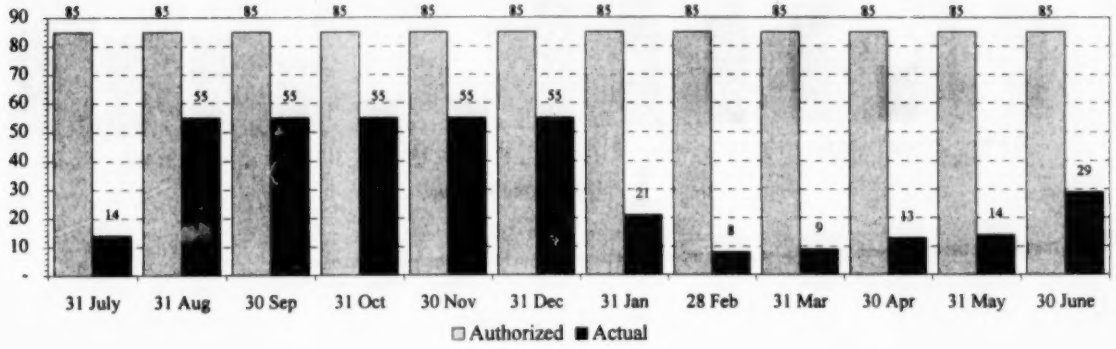
Apportionment: ($720,200); expenditure: ($486,800); variance: ($233,400)

21. This amount is derived from staff assessment (see para. 20).

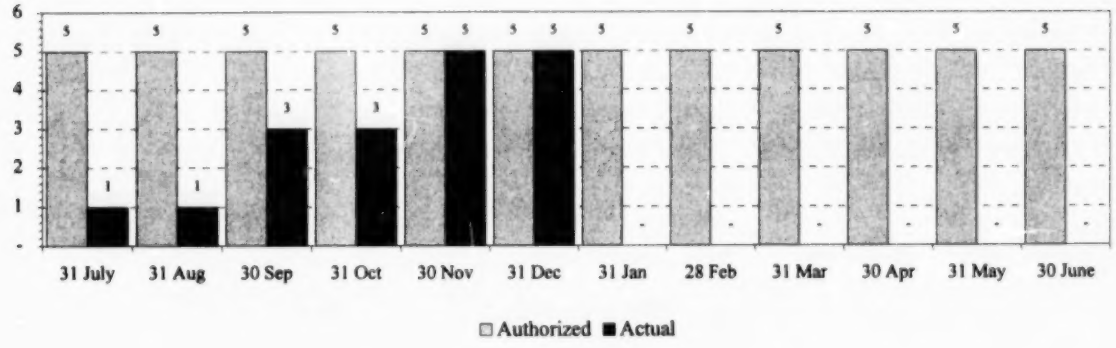
Annex III

Planned and actual deployment of military and civilian personnel for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

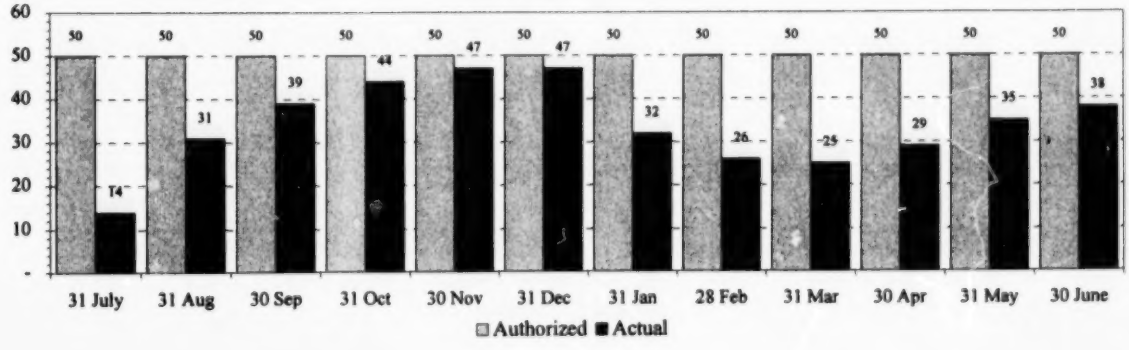
1. Military observers



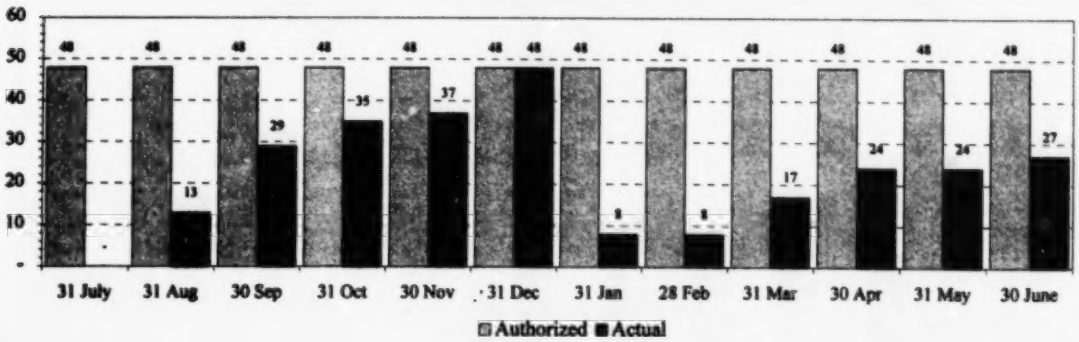
2. Civilian police



3. International staff



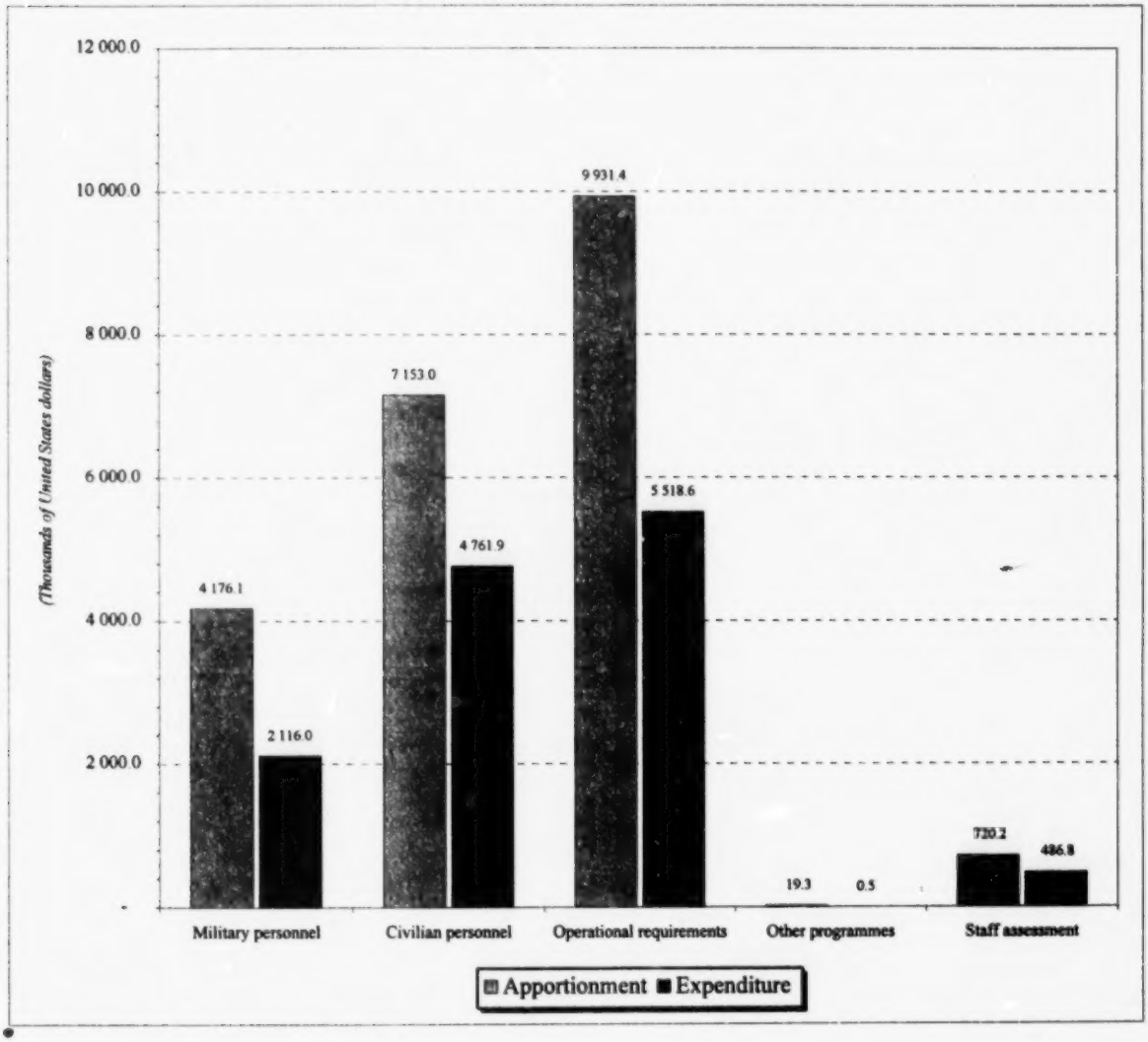
4. Local staff [a]



[a] Thirty-eight local staff were paid salaries for the month of January 1999 in lieu of termination indemnity.

Annex IV

Apportionment and expenditure for the period from 13 July 1998 to 30 June 1999



United Nations A/54/779

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Programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001

Review assessment and management of the asbestos problem at United Nations Headquarters

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In paragraphs 187 and 188 of General Assembly resolution 54/249, of 22 December 1999, the Secretary-General was requested to prepare a detailed and comprehensive report addressing the asbestos problem in United Nations Headquarters buildings, including specific proposals in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 aimed at addressing the situation. The present report provides an assessment of existing conditions with regard to asbestos-containing materials at Headquarters and a review of measures and procedures being followed in order to ensure that the presence of such materials has no harmful effect on the health of delegates, staff members or other persons working in and visiting the buildings

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I. Introduction

1. Asbestos is a naturally occurring class of magnesium-silicate minerals which are light-weight, chemically inert and heat-resistant, do not conduct electric currents, and possess high flexibility, strength, durability, and acoustic properties. Due to such excellent physical characteristics, asbestos-containing materials (ACM)[1] were widely adopted for various industrial and commercial uses, including building construction.

2. It was common practice, until the early 1970s, to use asbestos-containing materials in homes and buildings as thermal insulation on piping and ductwork, as electrical insulation on cables and panels, as a vapour barrier on exterior walls, as sprayed-on water-proofing or acoustic treatment on walls, ceilings and structural elements, and as a strengthening compound for certain vinyl floor tiles. ACM were also used extensively in the brake and clutch linings of cars and in various textured paints and adhesives; in caulking, glazing and patching compounds; in varnish, fire-resistant papers and clothing, and in home appliances.

3. Under a microscope, asbestos particles appear to be composed of thin curly fibers, much thinner than human hair. Because the fibers are so thin, once airborne, they can hang in the air for long periods of time before settling.

4. The adverse health effects associated with exposure to asbestos have been extensively studied for many years. Results of these studies and of epidemiologic investigations have demonstrated that inhalation of asbestos fibers over a long period of time may lead to increased risk of respiratory problems or lung cancer. Smoking in combination with exposure to asbestos fibers compounds the risk.

5. The harmful effects of asbestos fibers on the respiratory system was clearly established by the early 1970s, and hence, in 1972, the use of any sprayed-on asbestos in building elements was banned. Soon thereafter, the use of other asbestos-containing materials in buildings was also banned. Therefore, buildings constructed after 1980 have no ACM, while buildings constructed after 1972 may have limited amounts of ACM.

6. Buildings with ACM today use extensive monitoring, engineering controls and work practices to ensure that the risk of exposure to asbestos fibers is minimized.

7. It is important to note that the majority of people who have developed a disease as a result of exposure to asbestos have been asbestos workers, frequently exposed to very high concentrations of asbestos fibers every working day, with little or no protection.

II. Friable and non-friable asbestos-containing materials

8. Friable ACM can be crumbled with hand pressure; if disturbed, they can therefore release fibers into the air. The extent to which an asbestos-containing material might release harmful, breathable fibers into the air depends on its existing degree of friability or the friability created by a cutting or handling process.

9. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and other New York State and New York City regulatory agencies have established that only friable ACM has the potential of releasing asbestos fibers into the air and thereby posing a risk to the occupants of buildings.

10. Under the host country environmental and occupational safety and health rules and regulations, ACM that are not disturbed and that would not be disturbed by the performance of a staff member's regular job functions or routine building operations and maintenance functions are considered encapsulated, or non-friable. Encapsulated asbestos cannot release asbestos fibers into the air, does not pose a health risk and is best left undisturbed.

III. Current situation at United Nations Headquarters

11. The buildings at United Nations Headquarters complex, which were constructed in the early 1950s, used asbestos-containing materials on the following surfaces and in the following building systems:

(a) Hot and cold water piping, steam piping and piping in the window heating and cooling units;

[1] For a glossary of terms, see the annex.

(b) On the outside of sealed air supply, return and exhaust ductwork;

(c) Spray-on vapour barriers or fireproofing on certain exterior walls;

(d) Spray-on or trowled-on acoustic/fireproofing on non-metallic plaster ceilings with popcorn texture;

(e) Vinyl floor tiles;

(f) Electrical insulation material on certain cables and connectors.

12. The ACM in the United Nations Headquarters buildings are mostly "white asbestos" (chrysotile), with small amounts of "brown asbestos" (amosite).

13. The UNDC-I and UNDC-II buildings do not contain any asbestos-containing materials since they were constructed when use of such materials was already discouraged.

14. Leased spaces in other Headquarters buildings are inspected for asbestos-containing materials, and proper abatement or containment procedures are followed prior to occupancy.

15. Based on regular inspections and air-quality testing, which is conducted twice yearly, all known asbestos-containing materials in Headquarters buildings are in an encapsulated, or non-friable, condition and are known to pose no health risk to staff, delegates or visitors to the United Nations.

16. If any asbestos-containing material might become disturbed or friable as the result of any activity such as planned maintenance, alteration, improvement or construction, it is removed from all adjacent areas by licensed contractors who use proper engineering controls and monitoring measures to ensure that permissible safe exposure limits are not exceeded.

17. It would not be possible to remove all the asbestos-containing materials from United Nations Headquarters buildings without vacating and isolating multiple floors and shutting down and rebuilding systems and interior surfaces.

IV. Compliance with industry codes, regulations and standards

18. The United Nations complies with all standards, codes and regulations issued by the United States Government, New York State and New York City with regard to inspection, engineering controls, abatement, and management of disposal of asbestos-containing materials. These include:

(a) United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Code of Federal Register (CFR) (40 CFR 763) for asbestos hazard emergency response and for workers protection;

(b) Occupational Safety and Health Administration operations and maintenance standards (29 CFR 1910.1001); construction industry standards (29 CFR 1926.1101);

(c) New York State Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations;

(d) New York City Department of Environmental Protection rules and regulations.

V. Use of licensed contractors for handling ACM and of in-house staff for supervision and management

19. Any contractor engaged by the United Nations to monitor, remove, inspect, test or dispose of ACM is required to hold the proper licences and certification and to have trained his/her staff for such work. The contractor is supervised to ensure that he/she takes all necessary precautions in accordance with applicable regulations for the construction of a decontamination unit, protection of property, monitoring, and safe and prompt disposal of asbestos-containing materials.

20. The following asbestos removal, monitoring and disposal activities may be undertaken by the contractor:

(a) Class I: Asbestos removal from piping, ductwork and surfaces;

(b) Class II: Asbestos removal from areas other than class I areas, such as floor tiles, wall boards etc.;

(c) Class III: Repair or maintenance activities where ACM or presumed ACM (PACM) are likely to be disturbed. The contractor removes ACM from all adjacent surfaces before starting the repair or maintenance work.

21. All ACM are bagged in impervious wetted bags, hauled by a licensed transport company and deposited at a licensed landfill with proper disposal manifest.

22. Air quality is monitored by an independent testing company and laboratory to ensure that the airborne asbestos fibers do not exceed permissible safe exposure limits (PELS).

23. In-house staff are employed for the following asbestos-related activities:

(a) Supervision of outside contractors. All ACM work is supervised by the in-house staff to ensure that proper procedures and precautions are taken in building isolation/decontamination units, the installation of critical barriers to trap asbestos fibers, the maintenance of negative pressure, high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration, and proper disposal of ACM bags;

(b) Periodic inspections, to ensure that no ACM become friable;

(c) Class IV ACM activities – that is, maintenance and custodial activities during which employees may come into contact with but not disturb ACM.

VI. Current measures for the management of ACM

24. In spite of the fact that there are asbestos-containing materials in the Headquarters buildings, proper inspection, management and control measures have been instituted to ensure that such materials remain in an encapsulated (non-friable) state whereby they pose no health risk to the staff, delegates or visitors.

25. If there is any chance that ACM might become friable due to an activity such as maintenance, alteration, improvement or construction, they are promptly removed (abated) and disposed of off-site by a qualified licensed contractor. The quality of the air is measured before, during and after the removal of the ACM to detect the presence of any asbestos fibers. Engineering controls and air-quality testing are used to confirm that no contamination occurs as a result of ACM abatement activities.

26. The following measures, in complete conformity with building industry standards and guidelines for asbestos management, are taken to protect United Nations staff, delegates and visitors from exposure to asbestos fibers:

(a) Semi-annual testing of all air supply and return sources for the presence of any asbestos fibers. The results are made available to the staff through the Medical Services Division/Office of Human Resources Management;

(b) Additional bulk-material testing and air-quality testing for the presence of asbestos fibers in any areas where asbestos-containing materials are suspected of having been disturbed or where specific staff complaints are received;

(c) Regular inspections by the Facilities Management Division/OCSS staff and its contractors of any areas where the ACM or PACM appear disturbed. Immediate material and air-quality testing of such areas is undertaken, and if the ACM are confirmed to be disturbed, immediate encapsulation or abatement of the disturbed materials is performed;

(d) Scheduling of air monitoring and asbestos abatement in any area where planned maintenance work, alterations, or other such activity could possibly disturb ACM;

(e) Retaining licensed contractors on board, available on short notice for air-quality testing and for isolation and abatement of any ACM that is disturbed for any reason;

(f) Periodic training of the maintenance, construction and security staff on asbestos awareness.

27. The proper supervision of contractors is provided by qualified staff to ensure that the contractors take all the necessary precautions for the abatement and management of ACM, including:

(a) Construction of a decontamination enclosure and critical barrier so as to prevent any asbestos fibers from escaping from the abatement area;

(b) Isolation of all heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) supply and return systems by use of 6-mil plastic or the equivalent;

(c) Maintenance of negative pressure in the decontamination enclosure;

(d) Use of impervious drop cloths over all equipment and surfaces in the area of ACM abatement;

(e) Use of HEPA filters for all clean-up activities. The use of compressed air or regular vacuum cleaners is prohibited;

(f) Use of wet methods (requiring the use of water) during the removal, bagging, storage and transport activities. No dry cutting, sweeping or bagging is permitted. The ACM must be stored in impervious bags and promptly hauled away by a licensed contractor to a certified landfill from which a proper waste manifest is obtained.

VII. Current resources and programme for the management of ACM

28. For the 2000-2001 biennium, US$ 1 million has been budgeted for the management of asbestos in accordance with the above procedures, with continued encapsulation and the removal of existing ACM only where maintenance work, alterations, improvements, construction or similar activities necessitate such action. Similar funding was provided in the past few biennia and was adequate for the programme.

29. Expert consultants are periodically engaged to assess the environmental situation at United Nations Headquarters buildings. The consultants have consistently found that the existing testing and abatement programmes are adequate and that no additional preventive or corrective action is necessary. Consistent with such findings and applicable regulatory rules and standards, the total removal of encapsulated ACM without moving staff from multiple floors and rebuilding systems and services is not recommended, required or planned.

30. There are no known adverse effects on the health and safety of the staff, delegates and visitors so long as the above procedures are properly followed.

VIII. Long-range plan for removal of all or most ACM through the capital master plan

31. A long-range capital master plan for extensive renovation of Headquarters buildings has been developed and will be presented to the legislative bodies this year. If and when the funding for such a plan is approved and the plan is implemented, a near-total removal of all asbestos-containing materials would be undertaken. The plan entails relocation of staff and other services from multiple floors in a phased manner. Afterwards, all occupied spaces in the Headquarters buildings would be free of ACM.

IX. Conclusion

32. The United Nations Headquarters buildings were built when the use of asbestos-containing materials was common for thermal insulation of piping and ductwork, for fireproofing/acoustic treatment of walls and ceilings, for strengthening vinyl floor tiles and for electrical insulation. All ACM in Headquarters buildings are currently maintained in a non-friable, or encapsulated, state by inspections, testing and engineering controls. Any ACM that might become friable during an activity such as maintenance, alteration, improvement or construction are removed or encapsulated, on an as-needed basis, in accordance with proper safety, monitoring and control measures

33. There has been adequate funding provided in the current and previous biennia to manage the required asbestos management and control programme. Industry standards and guidelines indicate that the practice of removing asbestos materials only when a planned or unplanned activity could disturb the material and leaving the rest of encapsulated ACM alone is the recommended option for occupied buildings and has been found to pose minimum risk to the health and safety of the occupants.

34. Under the proposed extensive buildings renovation programme in the capital master plan, when staff would be relocated from multiple floors, complete removal of all ACM from occupied spaces would be undertaken. The timetable for such complete removal would follow the schedule for implementation of phased renovations in accordance with the capital master plan.

Annex

Glossary

Asbestos. Generic name for a class of naturally occurring magnesium-silicate minerals that found wide acceptance as a choice material for high durability, insulating, fire-resistance and sound-proofing properties.

White asbestos. Chrysotile (magnesium silicate hydrate); 95 per cent of all asbestos used in the United States.

Brown asbestos. Amosite (ferrous magnesium silicate); used in places in the United States and in United Nations Headquarters buildings for its high heat resistance.

Blue asbestos. Crocidolite (sodium iron silicate); used mostly in Europe

Green asbestos. Anthophyllite and tremolite (magnesium-iron/calcium silicate); used mostly in Europe.

Asbestos-containing materials (ACM). Any material containing more than 1 per cent of asbestos.

Asbestos fiber. A particle form of asbestos 5 micrometres long or longer, with the length of the particle being three or more times that of the diameter.

Critical barrier. One or more layers of plastic sealed over all openings into a work area or any other similarly placed physical barrier sufficient to prevent airborne asbestos in a work area from migrating to an adjacent area.

Employee notification of monitoring results. Notification of results to affected employees is required within 15 days of receipt of results.

Encapsulated, or non-friable, asbestos. The state of asbestos-containing materials when they are properly sealed, wrapped and contained so that they do not crumble by hand pressure and do not pose any risk of releasing asbestos fibers into the air during the normal course of daily activities or during routine servicing, custodial and cleaning activities. Encapsulated materials do not pose a health risk unless they are disturbed by cutting, sanding or handling processes.

Engineering controls and work practices. Isolation, ventilation, cleaning and other measures to ensure that airborne asbestos fibers always remain within the permissible exposure limits or excursion limits before, during or after any asbestos handling, disposal, abatement or cleaning activities.

Excursion limit. An airborne concentration of asbestos of 1.0 fiber per cubic centimetre of air (1 f/cc), as averaged over a sampling period of thirty (30) minutes.

Exposure monitoring. General determination of employee exposure shall be made from breathing zone air samples that are representative of a 30-minute short-term or 8-hour time-weighted average.

Friable asbestos. Asbestos that can be crumbled with hand pressure and can therefore readily release fibers into the air, if disturbed. The potential for an asbestos-containing material to release harmful, breathable fibers into the air depends on its existing degree of friability or the friability created by any cutting or handling process.

High efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter. Filters capable of trapping 99.97 per cent of particles 0.3 micrometres in diameter.

Permissible exposure limits (PELS). Airborne concentration of asbestos fibers in excess of 0.1 fiber per cubic centimetre of air as an 8-hour time-weighted average.

Presumed asbestos-containing materials (PACM). Thermal insulation or surfacing material found in buildings constructed before 1980. Unless otherwise proven by tests, such insulation or surfacing materials are presumed to contain asbestos. Buildings constructed in the United States after 1980 did not use ACM.

Regulated area. An area where ACM abatement is planned.

Surfacing ACM. Surfacing materials that are sprayed on, trowled-on or otherwise applied to walls, ceilings or other surfaces for fireproofing, acoustic treatment and other purposes and which contain more than 1 per cent asbestos.

Thermal system insulation ACM (TSI ACM). Thermal system insulation materials that contain more than 1 per cent asbestos and are applied to pipes, fittings, tanks, ducts or other components to prevent heat loss or gain.

Wet methods. To prevent the release of asbestos fibers into the air space, all asbestos-containing materials are required to be handled, removed, cut, scored, or otherwise worked in a wet state.

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Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the financial performance report of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999. The General Assembly, by its resolutions 52/228 B of 26 June 1998 and 53/18 A of 2 November 1998, appropriated for the maintenance of MINURSO for this period a total amount of $60 million gross ($55,918,800 net). Of this appropriation, an amount of $46,031,077 gross ($43,001,827 net) has been assessed on Member States.

Expenditures for the period totalled $44,607,700 gross ($42,398,200 net), resulting in the unutilized balance of appropriation of $15,392,300 gross ($13,520,600 net). The unutilized balance of assessments amounted to $1,423,377 gross ($603,627 net).

The unutilized balance resulted primarily from the early repatriation of the military engineering support unit, a higher than projected vacancy rate for international civilian staff and reduced operational requirements due to the suspension of identification activities.

The action to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MINURSO is set out in paragraph 17 of the present report.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) was established by the Security Council in its resolution 690 (1991) of 29 April 1991. The mandate of the Mission has been extended by the Council in subsequent resolutions, the latest of which was resolution 1292 (2000) of 29 February 2000, by which the Council extended the mandate of MINURSO until 31 May 2000.

2. The proposed budget of MINURSO for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 amounted to $65,053,200 gross ($60,972,000 net) (see A/52/730/Add.3 and Corr.2).

3. The budget provided for the continuation of the process of identifying eligible voters in the referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara based on the authorized strength of 203 military observers and 81 civilian police officers supported by 400 civilian personnel (285 international, 105 local staff and 10 Organization of African Unity (OAU) observers). It also provided for the deployment of 160 military engineering support personnel authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1148 (1998) of 26 January 1998, in addition to 26 medical and 7 force orderly personnel.

4. In view of the uncertainty at the time of the consideration of the proposed budget as to possible changes in the Mission's mandate and the resulting adjustments in its resource requirements for the 1998/99 financial period, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended a bridging appropriation and assessment for MINURSO of $21.6 million gross covering the period from 1 July to 31 October 1998 (see A/52/860/Add.8). Based on this recommendation, the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/228 B of 26 June 1998, appropriated and assessed an amount of $22,749,540 gross ($21,473,540 net), inclusive of the amount of $1,149,540 for the support account for peacekeeping operations.

5. Subsequently, on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee (A/53/474), the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/18 A of 2 November 1998, appropriated and assessed an additional amount of $37,250,460 gross ($34,445,260 net) for the maintenance of MINURSO for the 1998/99 financial period.

6. Therefore, the total appropriation provided by the General Assembly in its resolutions 52/228 B and 53/18 A for the Mission for the 1998/99 financial period amounted to $60 million gross ($55,918,800 net). Compared with the proposed budget of $65.1 million gross, the approved appropriation of $60 million gross reflected the Mission's revised maintenance requirements based on the pattern of its expenditures during July and August 1998. Apportionment of the approved resources reflected the reduced appropriation accordingly. As indicated in paragraphs 15 and 16 below and shown in table 3, of the total appropriation of $60 million gross ($55,918,800 net), an amount of $46,031,077 gross ($43,001,827) has been actually assessed on Member States.

II. Implementation of the budget

7. Information on the operations of MINURSO and on the situation on the ground during the period under review is contained in the reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council dated 10 July 1998 (S/1998/634), 18 August 1998 (S/1998/775), 11 September 1998 (S/1998/849), 26 October 1998 (S/1998/997), 11 December 1998 (S/1998/1160), 28 January 1999 (S/1999/88), 22 March 1999 (S/1999/307), 27 April and 13 May 1999 (S/1999/483 and Add.1) and 25 June 1999 (S/1999/721).

8. Resources appropriated by the General Assembly for MINURSO for the 1998/99 financial period provided for the continuation of its mandated activities in connection with the planned completion of the identification of eligible voters in the referendum for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara and for the implementation of the next stages of the Settlement Plan. In August 1998, however, the identification process came to a halt over unforeseen difficulties in respect of the identification of applicants from certain tribal groupings.

9. The suspension of the identification process, which was resumed on 15 June 1999, had an across-the-board impact on the utilization by the Mission of the appropriated resources, resulting in unutilized balances in all main categories of expenditure. These balances have been sufficient to offset additional requirements arising from the delayed deployment and subsequent repatriation of a military demining unit for which provision had originally been made in the Mission's 1997/98 budget and the early repatriation of the engineering support unit, as well as the hire of an additional fixed-wing aircraft during the peak activity period in July and August 1998.

10. In view of the completion of the preparatory tasks related to the planned full deployment of the Mission and uncertainty as to the resumption of identification activities, the military demining and engineering units had been repatriated in October 1998 and January 1999 respectively. As a result, there were unutilized balances under the military personnel category of expenditure. Resources provided for the acquisition of equipment and the operation of mine information cells under mine-clearing programmes also remained largely uncommitted.

11. Moreover, as a result of operational inactivity, civilian police officers whose tours of duty had ended and Identification Commission personnel whose contracts expired on 31 December 1998 had not been replaced pending conclusion of political consultations and resolution of the impasse. For this reason, the Mission experienced significantly higher than anticipated vacancy rates for civilian police and international civilian staff of 38 per cent and 29 per cent respectively, resulting in unutilized balances under the related budget line items.

12. The suspension of identification activities and the repatriation of military units also account for the Mission's significantly reduced operational requirements, resulting in the early termination of a contract to hire one MI-8 helicopter and the utilization of fewer flight hours than were provided for in the budget, as well as the non-utilization of funds for the rental of hotel accommodations for Identification Commission staff.

III. Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

13. As indicated in table 1 below, from the total appropriation of $60 million gross ($55,918,800 net) for the maintenance of MINURSO for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, expenditures amounted to $44,607,700 gross ($42,398,200 net), inclusive of $6,966,300 in unliquidated obligations. The resulting unutilized balance of $15,392,300 gross ($13,520,600 net) represents, in gross terms, 26 per cent of the total appropriation. Annex I to the present report contains the financial performance information for the reporting period by budget line item, with supplementary information on significant variances presented in annex II. Annex IV provides a chart showing apportionment and expenditures by main budget group.

Table 1
Apportionment and expenditure
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*[a]	*Variance*
Military personnel	14 133.7	11 192.4	2 941.3
Civilian personnel	26 378.4	18 744.9	7 633.5
Operational requirements	13 923.5	11 101.5	2 822.0
Other programmes	149.5	25.7	123.8
United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi[b]	184.2	184.2	-
Support account for peacekeeping operations	1 149.5	1 149.5	-
Staff assessment	4 081.2	2 209.5	1 871.7
Gross requirements	**60 000.0**	**44 607.7**	**15 392.3**
Income from staff assessment	(4 081.2)	(2 209.5)	(1 871.7)
Net requirements	**55 918.8**	**42 398.2**	**13 520.6**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	-	-	-
Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	-	-	-
Total resources	**60 000.0**	**44 607.7**	**15 392.3**

[a] Includes an amount of $6,966,300 in unliquidated obligations.
[b] Included in apportionment.

14. Information on the deployment of military and civilian personnel during the reporting period is presented in table 2 and annex III.

Table 2
Authorized staffing, incumbency and vacancy rates for military and civilian personnel for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

Personnel category	*Authorized strength*	*Actual strength (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*
Military observers	203	198	2
Military contingents [a]	193	120	38
Civilian police	81	50	38
International staff	285	202	29
Local staff	105	98	7
OAU observers	10	7	30

[a] Includes seven force orderly personnel.

15. Owing to the suspension of identification activities and the substantial scaling back of MINURSO operations, as described above, it was determined during the period that there would likely be significant underutilization of the approved appropriation. On the basis of this conclusion, it was decided not to assess Member States for the full amount of the approved appropriation for the 1998/99 financial period.

16. The actually assessed amount of $46,031,077 gross ($43,001,827 net) corresponds to the extension of the Mission's mandate until 31 March 1999 by the Security Council in its resolution 1228 (1999) of 11 February 1999 and represents the prorated share for the period from 1 July 1998 to 31 March 1999 of the full 12-month appropriation for MINURSO. Compared with expenditures for the 1998/99 period of $44,607,700 gross ($42,398,200 net), the resulting unutilized balance of assessments amounts to $1,423,377 gross ($603,627 net). A summary of financial resources provided to MINURSO for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 is shown in table 3 below.

Table 3
Financial resources for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999
(United States dollars)

	Appropriation[a] (1)	*Amount assessed (2)*	*Expenditure (3)*	*Unutilized balance of assessments (4) = (2)-(3)*
Gross	60 000 000	46 031 077	44 607 700	1 423 377
Net	55 918 800	43 001 827	42 398 200	603 627

[a] From General Assembly resolutions 52/228 B and 53/18 A.

IV. Action to be taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session

17. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of MINURSO are:**

(a) A reduction in the appropriation provided in Assembly resolutions 52/228 B and 53/18 A for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 from $60 million gross ($55,918,800 net) to $46,031,077 gross ($43,001,827 net), corresponding to the amount actually assessed on Member States;

(b) A decision on the treatment of the unutilized balance of $1,423,377 gross ($603,627 net) based on the reduced appropriation recommended in subparagraph (a) above.

Annex I

Financial performance report for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999: summary statement

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category of expenditure	*(1)* *Apportionment* [a]	*(2)* *Non-recurrent expenditures*	*(3)* *Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)*	*(4) = (1 - 3)* *Variance*
I. Military personnel				
1. Military observers	5 399.8	-	5 329.7	70.1
2. Military contingents	4 604.2	-	3 829.2	775.0
3. Other requirements pertaining to military personnel				
(a) Contingent-owned equipment	3 960.8	-	1 878.0	2 082.8
(b) Self-sustainment	-	-	-	-
(c) Death and disability compensation	168.9	-	155.5	13.4
Subtotal, line 3	4 129.7	-	2 033.5	2 096.2
Total, category I	**14 133.7**	**-**	**11 192.4**	**2 941.3**
II. Civilian personnel				
1. Civilian police	1 879.1	-	1 368.8	510.3
2. International and local staff	24 293.9	-	17 220.6	7 073.3
3. United Nations Volunteers	-	-	-	-
4. Government-provided personnel	205.4	-	155.5	49.9
5. Civilian electoral observers	-	-	-	-
Total, category II	**26 378.4**	**-**	**18 744.9**	**7 633.5**
III. Operational costs				
1. Premises/accommodations	1 501.1	148.4	794.7	706.4
2. Infrastructure repairs	-	-	-	-
3. Transport operations	2 049.7	714.7	1 768.1	281.6
4. Air operations	8 499.5	233.0	6 012.1	2 487.4
5. Naval operations	-	-	-	-
6. Communications	657.1	86.1	727.5	(70.4)
7. Other equipment	559.5	469.9	490.1	69.4
8. Supplies and services	612.9	-	804.3	(191.4)
9. Air and surface freight				
(a) Transport of contingent-owned equipment	-	-	476.2	(476.2)
(b) Commercial freight and cartage	43.7	-	28.5	15.2
Subtotal, line 9	43.7	-	504.7	(461.0)
Total, category III	**13 923.5**	**1 652.1**	**11 101.5**	**2 822.0**

Category of expenditure	(1) Apportionment [a]	(2) Non-recurrent expenditures	(3) Total expenditures (inclusive of non-recurrent expenditures)	(4) = (1 - 3) Variance
IV. Other programmes				
1. Election-related supplies and services	-	-	-	-
2. Public information programmes	-	-	-	-
3. Training programmes	-	-	-	-
4. Mine-clearing programmes	149.5	9.2	25.7	123.8
5. Assistance for disarmament and demobilization	-	-	-	-
Total, category IV	**149.5**	**9.2**	**25.7**	**123.8**
V. United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi [b]	**184.2**	**-**	**184.2**	**-**
VI. Support account for peacekeeping operations	**1 149.5**	**-**	**1 149.5**	**-**
VII. Staff assessment	**4 081.2**	**-**	**2 209.5**	**1 871.7**
Gross requirements, categories I-VII	60 000.0	1 661.3	44 607.7	15 392.3
VIII. Income from staff assessment	**(4 081.2)**	**-**	**(2 209.5)**	**(1 871.7)**
Net requirements, categories I-VIII	55 918.8	1 661.3	42 398.2	13 520.6
IX. Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
X. Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total	**60 000.0**	**1 661.3**	**44 607.7**	**15 392.3**

[a] Based on the appropriation provided by General Assembly resolutions 52/228 B and 53/18 A.

[b] Included in apportionment.

Annex II

Supplementary information on significant variances

Military personnel

Apportionment: $14,133,700; expenditure: $11,192,400; variance: $2,941,300

1. The unutilized balance of $2,941,300 under this heading resulted from reduced requirements under military observers ($70,100), military contingents ($775,000) and other requirements pertaining to military personnel ($2,096,200).

Military observers

Apportionment: $5,399,800; expenditure: $5,329,700; variance: $70,100

2. The approved budget assumed full deployment of military observers. The unutilized balance of $70,100 under this heading is attributable to the actual average vacancy rate of 2 per cent during the reporting period, resulting in unspent resources under mission subsistence allowance ($55,800), clothing and equipment allowance ($2,800) and travel costs ($11,500).

Military contingents

Apportionment: $4,604,200; expenditure: $3,829,200; variance: $775,000

3. The net unutilized balance of $775,000 under this heading was primarily attributable to the early repatriation, in January 1999, of the engineering support unit, the budgetary provision for which covered the full 12-month period. The unutilized portion of this provision was sufficient to absorb additional costs related to the deployment during the period from July to October 1998 of a demining unit originally budgeted for in the 1997/98 period. Net savings were reported under welfare ($11,600), rations ($238,000), clothing and equipment allowance ($4,500) and emplacement, rotation and repatriation of troops ($656,500). The apportionment of resources under several budget line items, however, proved insufficient to cover the full costs pertaining to the deployment of the demining unit, resulting in additional requirements under standard troop cost reimbursement ($133,200), daily allowance ($1,900) and mission subsistence allowance ($500).

Other requirements pertaining to military personnel

Apportionment: $4,129,700; expenditure: $2,033,500; variance: $2,096,200

4. The unutilized balance under this heading was attributable primarily to reduced requirements under contingent-owned equipment owing to the early repatriation of the engineering unit, provision for which had been made for the full 12-month period. The unutilized portion of this provision has been sufficient to absorb additional unforeseen costs related to the deployment of the demining unit.

Civilian personnel

Apportionment: $26,378,400; expenditure: $18,744,900; variance: $7,633,500

5. The unutilized balance of $7,633,500 under this heading resulted from reduced requirements for civilian police ($510,300), international and local staff ($7,073,300) and government-provided personnel ($49,900).

Civilian police

Apportionment: $1,879,100; expenditure: $1,368,800 ; variance: $510,300

6. Owing to developments on the ground (see para. 11 of the main report), the actual vacancy rate for civilian police during the reporting period was 38 per cent, significantly higher than the anticipated vacancy rate of 10 per cent applied in the approved budget. The resulting unutilized balance of $510,300 under this heading was attributable to reduced requirements under mission subsistence allowance ($502,700) and travel costs ($8,600), which were partially offset by additional requirements under clothing and equipment allowance, which was paid to 66 personnel compared with the budgeted estimate of 61 ($1,000).

International and local staff

Apportionment: $24,293,900; expenditure: $17,220,600 ; variance: $7,073,300

7. The unutilized balance of $7,073,300 under this heading was attributable primarily to high vacancy rates for international staff (29 per cent compared with the vacancy factor of 10 per cent applied in the budget (see also table 2 and annex III)), as well as to a larger proportion of mission appointees among international staff (60 per cent) than was assumed in the budget (50 per cent for Professional staff only). In view of the Mission's experience with regard to mission appointees, its approved 1999/00 and proposed 2000/01 budgets reflect appropriate reductions under international civilian staff salaries and common staff costs. An unutilized balance ($119,900) was also reported under local staff salaries owing to the lower than budgeted average grade level of this category of personnel. The prevailing grade levels were taken into account in the 2000/01 budgetary estimates for local staff salary costs.

8. The unutilized balances under international staff salaries ($4,676,800), common staff costs ($1,525,500) and mission subsistence allowance ($775,400) were partially offset by additional requirements under other official travel ($83,300). Travel for administrative purposes during the reporting period ($61,200, including travel for the installation of the field assets control system) remained within the apportioned resources ($86,900), and a provision for the travel of an independent jurist was not fully utilized as a result of the suspension of identification activities ($2,200 was expended compared with $10,800 budgeted). On the other hand, owing to the prolonged political consultations between the concerned parties and MINURSO as well as the Secretariat, the Mission's senior staff and Secretariat officials undertook 20 trips within and outside the mission area as well as to and from United Nations Headquarters in New York ($64,800), compared with the 5 trips budgeted ($21,300). Requirements for local travel within the mission area (assignment of personnel to Identification Commission centres, rotation of staff to

and from Laayoune and staffing of appeals centres in northern Morocco) also exceeded original estimates ($62,100 compared with the budgeted amount of $12,500). Contributing to additional requirements under this budget line item were expenditures related to specialized training of staff at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (10 persons at a cost of $24,500 trained in electronic data-processing, maintenance of generators, field personnel management and Sun accounting systems).

Government-provided personnel

Apportionment: $205,400; expenditure: $155,500; variance: $49,900

9. The unutilized balance of $49,900 under this heading ($32,300 under mission subsistence allowance and $17,600 under travel costs) was attributable to the average vacancy rate of 30 per cent for the OAU observers. Owing to the suspension of the identification activities, the average number of observers during the reporting period was seven. The budgetary provision had been based on the application of a 10 per cent vacancy factor.

Operational costs

Apportionment: $13,923,500; expenditure: $11,101,500; variance: $2,822,000

10. The unutilized balance of $2,822,000 under this heading resulted from reduced requirements under premises/accommodation ($706,400), transport operations ($281,600), air operations ($2,487,400) and other equipment ($69,400), which were in part offset by additional requirements under communications ($70,400), supplies and services ($191,400) and air and surface freight ($461,000).

Premises/accommodation

Apportionment: $1,501,100; expenditure: $794,700; variance: $706,400

11. The net unutilized balance of $706,400 under this heading was attributable primarily to reduced requirements under rental of premises due to the suspension of identification activities ($802,800) and under utilities ($105,100) owing to the early departure of the engineering unit and the resulting underutilization of the provision for generator fuel. These unutilized balances were offset in part by additional requirements for maintenance supplies ($60,900) as a result of the replacement of water tanks at three team sites as well as electrical, sanitary and plumbing fixtures required for the logistics complex in Laayoune and at team sites. Expenditures of $148,400 under construction/prefabricated buildings, for which no budgetary provision had been made, were due to the completion of the renovation and minor construction projects initiated during the 1997/98 financial period at the logistics complex in connection with the deployment of the military engineering and demining units, as well as for the upgrading of northern and souther sector supply bases and a transit camp in preparation for the full deployment of the Mission.

Transport operations

Apportionment: $2,049,700; expenditure: $1,768,100; variance: $281,600

12. The net unutilized balance of $281,600 under this heading was attributable primarily to the lower actual unit cost of 42 vehicles (38 4x4 general-purpose, 1 light sedan, 1 light bus and 2 double-cabin pick-up trucks) purchased through systems contracts ($181,800) and reduced requirements for spare parts, repairs and maintenance ($14,000). In addition, owing to the early departure of the engineering unit, savings were realized as a result of the lower consumption of petrol, oil and lubricants ($85,100) and the early termination of insurance coverage for contingent-owned vehicles ($32,400). These unutilized balances were offset in part by additional costs incurred under rental of vehicles ($31,600) because of the rental of 14 vehicles in July and August 1998 during the peak of identification activities and the slightly higher actual cost of workshop equipment ($100).

Air operations

Apportionment: $8,499,500; expenditure: $6,012,100; variance: $2,487,400

13. The net unutilized balance of $2,487,400 under this heading resulted from reduced requirements under helicopter ($1,779,100) and fixed-wing aircraft ($771,900) operations, which were offset in part by additional requirements under aircrew subsistence allowance ($5,300) and other air operations ($58,300).

14. While provision was made in the budget for four MI-8 medium-utility helicopters, the MINURSO helicopter fleet was reduced in November 1998 to three aircraft owing to revised operational requirements. The unutilized balance of $1,779,100 under helicopter operations resulted from reduced requirements under hire/charter costs ($723,700) as well as under aviation fuel and lubricants ($992,900) due to fewer flying hours (3,091) than budgeted (4,080). As a result of lower actual expenditure, additional savings were realized under positioning/depositioning ($35,000), painting/preparation ($23,000) and liability insurance costs ($4,500).

15. With regard to fixed-wing aircraft, while the Mission operated an additional AN-26 medium cargo/passenger aircraft during its peak activities in July and August 1998, for a total fleet of four such planes, the related unforeseen costs were absorbed within apportioned resources owing primarily to savings under aviation fuel and lubricants ($842,500) resulting from fewer flying hours (2,506) than budgeted (3,240) for the entire reporting period. As a result of lower actual expenditure, additional savings were realized under positioning/depositioning ($38,900), painting/preparation ($22,900) and liability insurance ($2,400) costs, for a net unutilized balance under this heading of $771,900.

16. Owing to flights outside the mission area (Brindisi; Tunis and Algiers), actual expenditure under aircrew subsistence allowance exceeded budgetary estimates, resulting in additional requirements of $5,300 under this heading. Net additional requirements of $58,300 under other air operations were attributable to charges for the air-traffic control services ($66,000) previously reported under fixed-wing aircraft hire/charter costs, partially offset by the unutilized balance of $7,700 under landing fees and ground handling as a result of fewer cargo flights owing to the suspension of the identification activities.

Communications

Apportionment: $657,100; expenditure: $727,500; variance: ($70,400)

17. Net additional requirements of $70,400 under this heading were attributable primarily to the increase in the Mission's share of the global Intelsat transponder leasing charges under the new contract effective 1 July 1998 ($149,900), partially offset by unutilized balances under communication equipment due to lower than budgeted expenditure ($1,700), as well as under spare parts and supplies ($69,000) and workshop and test equipment ($8,800) owing to the utilization of existing stock and supplies.

Other equipment

Apportionment: $559,500; expenditure: $490,100; variance: $69,400

18. As a result of the suspension of identification activities, the Mission's requirements under this heading were met largely from existing stock and supplies; hence, unutilized balances were realized under office ($15,900), accommodation ($40,200) and miscellaneous equipment ($53,700), spare parts, repairs and maintenance ($63,100) and water purification equipment ($3,900). The unutilized balances were offset partially by additional requirements under office furniture ($2,000) due to the replacement of worn-out and damaged furniture and data-processing equipment ($105,400), owing primarily to the purchase of 22 year-2000-compliant computers with accessories for upgrading the existing computer networks.

Supplies and services

Apportionment: $612,900; expenditure: $804,300; variance: ($191,400)

19. Net additional requirements of $191,400 under this heading reflect additional requirements under miscellaneous services ($241,100), which were offset in part by the unutilized balance under miscellaneous supplies ($49,700).

20. Additional requirements of $241,100 under miscellaneous services were attributable primarily to the significantly higher than budgeted bank charges (monthly average of $12,900 compared with the budgeted rate of $2,500) and to losses as a result of currency exchange fluctuation.

21. Under miscellaneous supplies, the net unutilized balance of $49,700 was attributable primarily to the reduced consumption of medicines and vaccines ($46,400) and to lower requirements under sanitation and cleaning materials ($5,300), subscriptions ($1,300) and miscellaneous supplies ($19,100) due to the suspension of identification activities. The unutilized balance was, however, offset in part by additional requirements under stationery and office supplies during the peak period of identification activities ($19,600) and higher than budgeted requirements for uniform items, flags and decals ($2,800).

Air and surface freight

Apportionment: $43,700; expenditure: $504,700; variance: $461,000

22. The additional requirements of $461,000 under this heading were attributable to unforeseen expenditures for freight and related costs in connection with the deployment and repatriation of contingent-owned equipment ($476,200), offset in part by the unutilized balance under commercial freight and cartage ($15,200).

Other programmes

Apportionment: $149,500; expenditure: $25,700; variance: $123,800

23. Owing to the early repatriation of military demining personnel, operation of the mine information cells was suspended, resulting in the unutilized balance of $123,800 under mine-clearing programmes.

Staff assessment

Apportionment: $4,081,200; expenditure: $2,209,500; variance: $1,871,700

24. The unutilized balance of $1,871,700 was due to the higher than budgeted vacancy rate for international staff.

Income from staff assessment

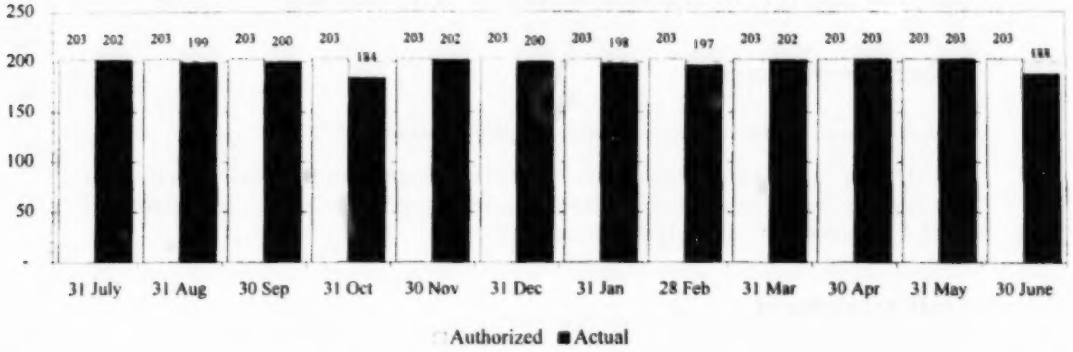
Apportionment: ($4,081,200); expenditure: ($2,209,500); variance: ($1,871,700)

25. This amount is derived from staff assessment (see above).

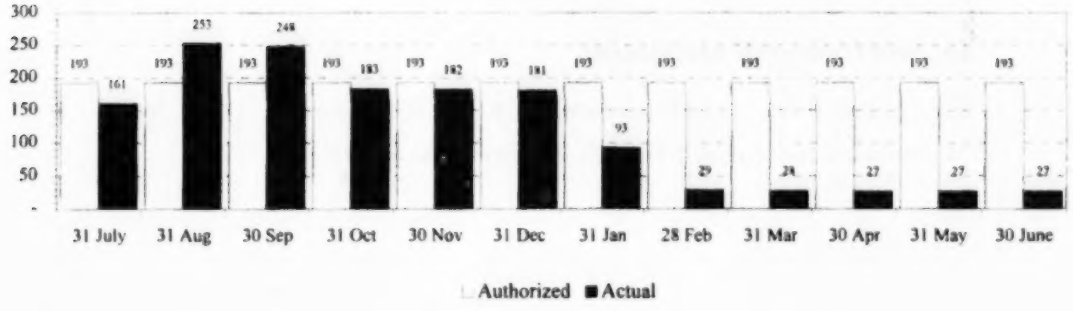
Annex III

Planned and actual deployment of civilian and military personnel for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999

1. Military observers

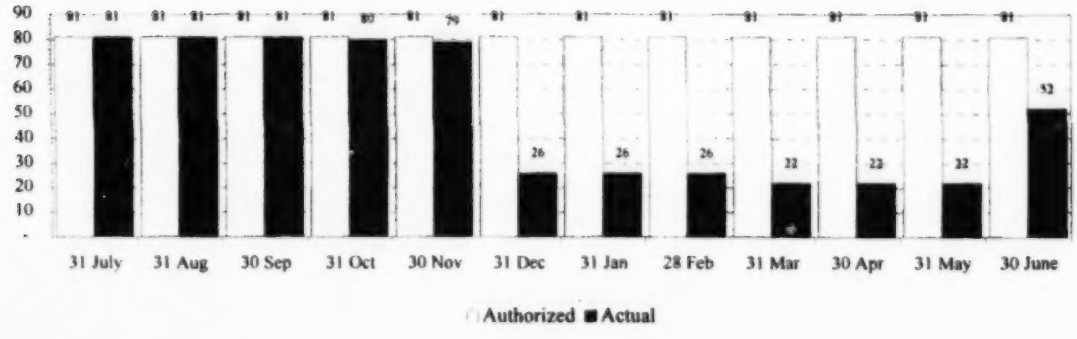


2. Military contingents [a]

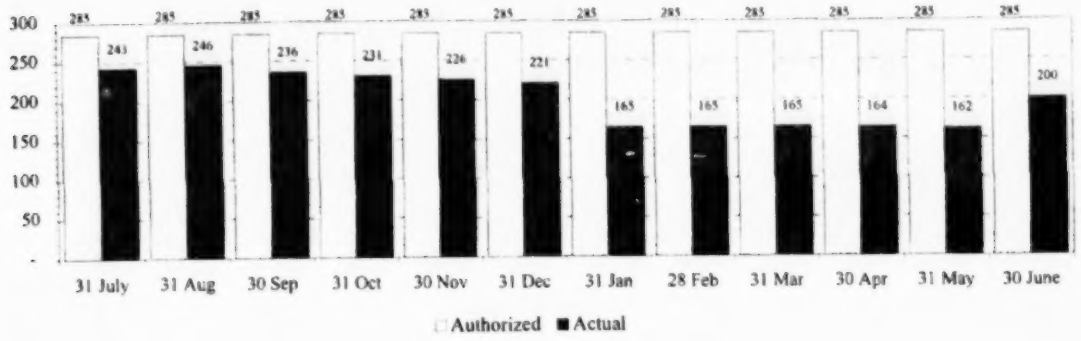


[a] Includes 7 force orderly personnel

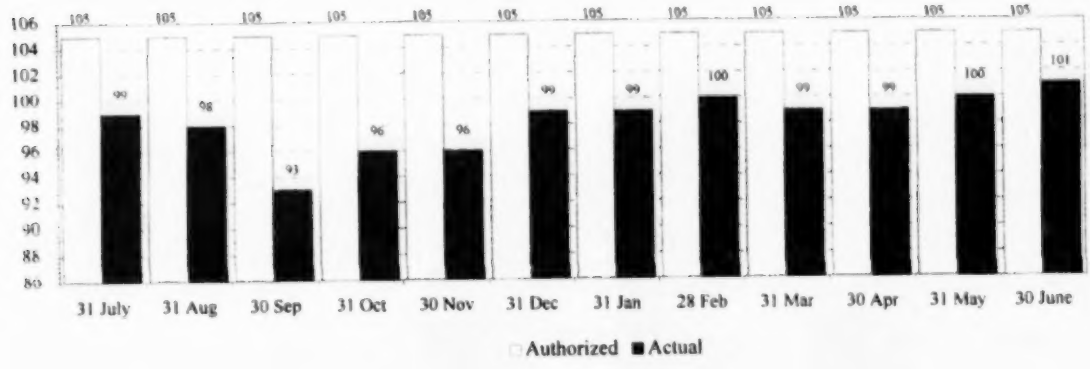
3. Civilian police



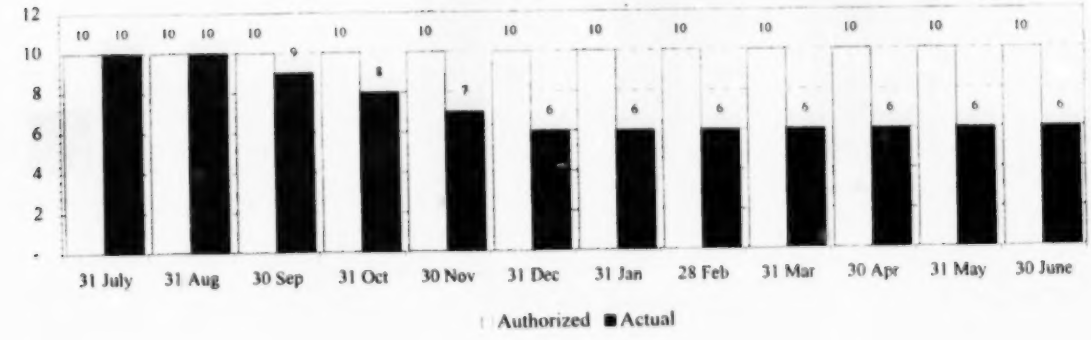
4. International staff



5. Local staff

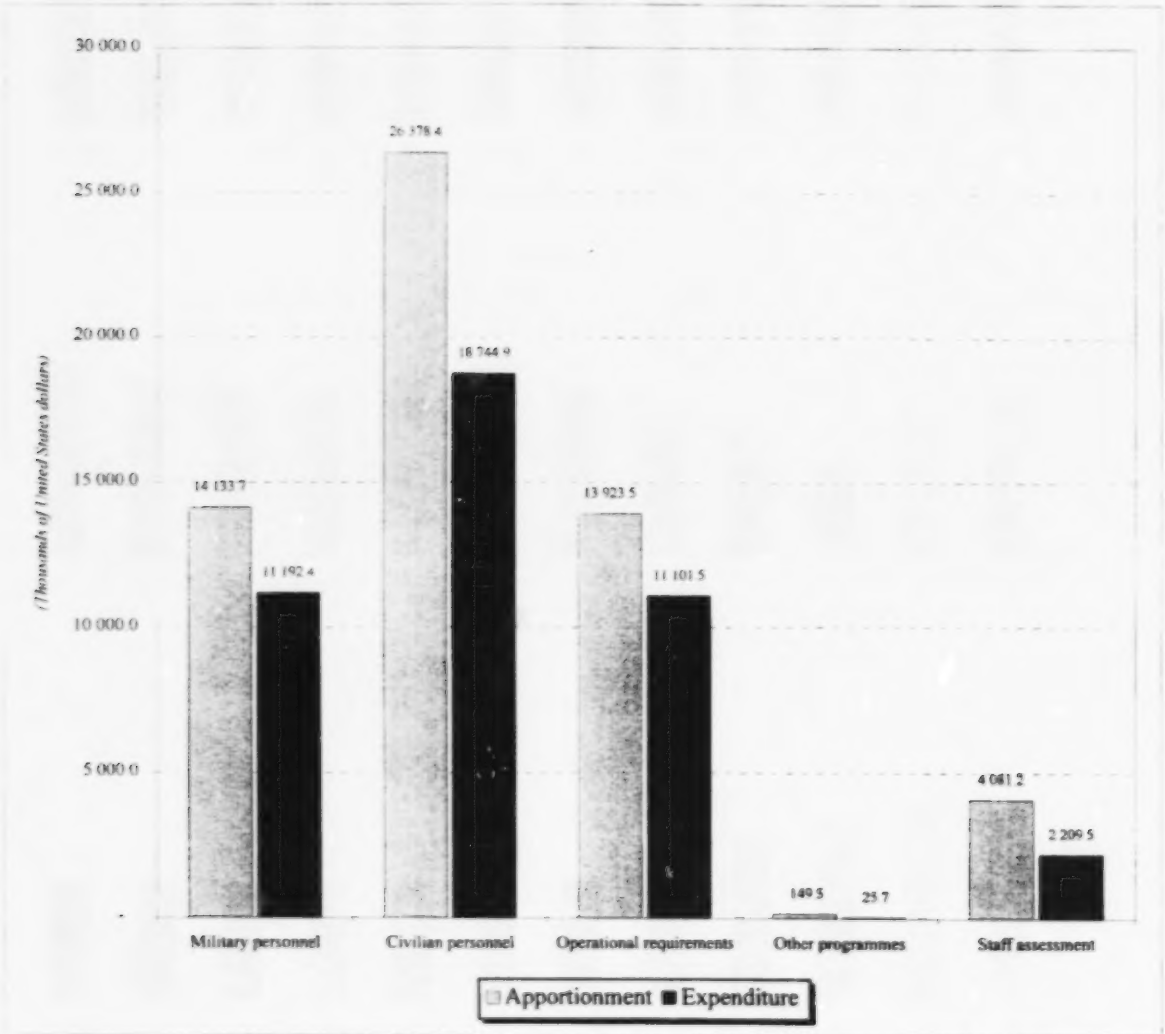


6. OAU observers



Annex IV

Apportionment and expenditure for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999



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General Assembly

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 84
Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

Letter dated 29 February 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from Petre Roman, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania, in his capacity of Chairman-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), regarding the SEECP Summit held at Bucharest on 12 February 2000, which adopted a Charter on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe.

I should be grateful if the text of the Charter on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 84.

(*Signed*) Ion **Gorita**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

00-32446 (E) 170300

Annex

Letter dated 28 February 2000 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you in my capacity of Chairman-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP), a regional initiative whose primary objective is to strengthen good-neighbourly relations among all the States in South-East Europe with the aim of building this region into an area of peace, security, stability and cooperation.

I am pleased to inform you that the Heads of State and Government of the countries of the region have signed, during their summit meeting held in Bucharest on 12 February 2000, the Charter on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe, one of the major political intergovernmental documents ever agreed upon by these countries. The Charter constitutes a genuine code of conduct for relations among the States in the region, as well as a real action programme aimed at enhancing their cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

I have the honour to officially convey to you a copy of this Charter, bearing the signatures of the President of Romania and the Prime Ministers of the SEECP participating countries present at the Bucharest summit.

As you may wish to note, the Heads of State and Government of the countries participating in the SEECP solemnly reaffirmed their unreserved commitment to the principles and norms enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The Charter on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe emphasizes that the cooperation among the countries of this region shall be founded on the Charter of the United Nations, on the principle of full respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all the States in the area, on the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the relevant documents of the Council of Europe, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

It would be very much appreciated if this Charter on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe were published as a United Nations document, under the item of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly relating to the maintenance of international security, stability and development of South-Eastern Europe.

(*Signed*) Petre **Roman**
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Romania
SEECP Chairman-in-Office

Enclosure

Charter on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation in South-Eastern Europe

PREAMBLE

We, the Heads of State and Government of the countries participating in the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP);

representing the freely elected Governments of our peoples,

solemnly reaffirming our unreserved commitments to the principles and the norms enshrined in the UN Charter, as well as in the Helsinki Final Act and the subsequent OSCE documents and in the relevant instruments of the Council of Europe, aiming at promoting good neighborly relations,

determined to further work together to create in our region conditions for the prosperity of our nations in an environment of peace, security, good neighborliness and stability,

strongly determined to overcome divisions and conflicts in our area through a comprehensive and coherent approach of regional cooperation and in close contacts with the other Euro-Atlantic countries and structures,

considering the differences in economic development and the diversity of the specific problems of each country in our region,

stressing the crucial importance of turning the South-Eastern Europe into a region free from violence and instability and building security, prosperity and democratic

civil societies, thus integrating our countries into the Euro-Atlantic family of free and democratic nations,

expressing our political will to pursue the South-East European Cooperation Process on mutually beneficial and equal basis, in a spirit of solidarity and in full respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all the states in the region,

emphasizing the importance of promoting in our region universal democratic values, respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, and the rule of law,

conscious of the present historic opportunity for the development of good-neighborliness, cooperation and stability in our region, created by the elimination of political and ideological divisions in Europe,

emphasizing the European orientation of our countries as an integral part of their political, economic and social development,

expressing our strong belief that European and Euro-Atlantic integration is essential in promoting our countries' common objectives and cannot be complete without the participation of all of our countries,

determined to further develop the South-East European Cooperation Process, originating from the countries of the region, as an expression of their solidarity and as a framework for their concerted efforts to strengthen the ties and cooperation among themselves and with other Euro-Atlantic states and structures;

considering the previous Declarations adopted by the Heads of State and Government and by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs as milestones in the development of this framework coming from within the region,

without prejudice to our countries' obligations under multilateral or bilateral treaties and agreements, in conformity with international law,

Have agreed on the following:

I. SCOPE AND PRINCIPLES OF THE REGIONAL COOPERATION

1. The primary objective of the South-East European Cooperation Process – SEECP- is to strengthen the good-neighborly relations among all states in this region, for transforming this region into an area of peace, security, stability and cooperation.

We commit ourselves to firmly act to reach this objective in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation, to the benefit of our countries and peoples, of Europe as a whole.

2. We aim to create a South-Eastern Europe whose future lies in peace, democracy, economic prosperity and full integration into European and Euro-Atlantic structures and, to this end, we commit ourselves to continued democratic and economic reform in our countries.

3. We recognize the responsibility of our countries to closely work with the international community to develop and implement a shared strategy for stability and growth of our region.

4. We welcome the adoption of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe and we expect all international organizations and institutions involved to work closely with the countries of the region for the successful and timely implementation of its goals.

5. We consider that responses to new security challenges and elimination of their root-causes require efforts in a wide range of areas, as well as strengthening international solidarity, including our participation in conflict prevention and crisis management activities, peace support operations undertaken by the international community, in particular in the framework of the UN, NATO, the OSCE, WEU and other Euro-Atlantic institutions.

6. We welcome the determination of NATO to actively contribute to the building of a more secure and cooperative relationship with and among the countries of the region.

7. The framework of this process comprises political cooperation which includes questions of security and stability, developing economic and environmental cooperation, promotion of humanitarian, social and cultural cooperation, cooperation in the fields of justice, combat against organized crime, elimination of terrorism, illicit drugs, arms and human trafficking.

8. The cooperation among our countries shall be founded on the UN Charter, on the principle of full observance of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all the states in our region, on the principles of the OSCE and the relevant documents of the Council of Europe, in particular the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

9. We reaffirm that our Governments are accountable to their citizens and responsible to one another for the implementation of the commitments undertaken

through our countries' membership in the OSCE and which are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all the states in this region. We recognize that the respect for these commitments constitutes one of the foundations of the international relations to which we intend to make a substantial contribution.

II. OBJECTIVES AND MECHANISMS OF COOPERATION

II.1 Enhancement of political and security cooperation

10. We believe that the security of South-Eastern Europe is essential for achieving lasting stability throughout the Euro-Atlantic area and that all the states and the peoples in the South-Eastern Europe should enjoy peace and stability and establish normal relations with one another. Our political and security cooperation serving this purpose shall be focused on:

i. Creating peaceful and good-neighborly relations in the region through reconciliation, recognition of the inviolability of the existing international borders and the peaceful resolution of disputes, on the basis of international law; we shall cooperate in the framework of UN, NATO, OSCE and other international fora in developing arms control and regional confidence building measures and mechanisms for security cooperation.

ii. Preventing and putting an end to tensions and crisis as a prerequisite for lasting stability.

11. The major forms of cooperation in the political and security field shall be mainly the following:

a. Promotion of an intensive political dialogue, through regular meetings of the Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Political Directors of the participating countries, as well as sectorial inter-governmental meetings on subjects of common interest, as it may be decided.

b. Encouragement of the inter-parliamentary dialogue, of the direct contacts among the representatives of the civil society, non-governmental organizations and cultural and scientific personalities.

c. Enhanced regional cooperation in the field of security, including the South-East European Defense Ministerial framework and the Multinational Peace Force - South-Eastern Europe as instruments for building confidence and security in the region.

d. Conclusion between the participating countries of multilateral and bilateral cooperation agreements, as well as the promotion of domestic measures to overcome the existing potential for conflict.

e. Exchanges of views conducting consultations and, as appropriate, taking joint initiatives on matters relevant to the stability, security and good-neighborly relations in the area, including the implementation of the 10 principles of the Helsinki Final Act.

f. Promotion of confidence building measures in the area and, in particular, the normalization of the relations between all participating countries.

g. While preserving and building upon the existing arrangements, examination within the SEECP mechanisms or in other relevant fora of proposals and ideas for additional measures in order to respond to specific regional needs for prevention of conflicts and easing of tensions, including observation missions, peace-keeping operations or crisis management activities.

h. Active participation to the efforts developed by the international community aiming at consolidating stability and security in the South-Eastern Europe, both in the planning and implementation phases.

II.2. Fostering economic cooperation

12. We are convinced that fostering bilateral, multilateral and regional economic cooperation and between the region and the rest of Europe constitutes an essential dimension of the good-neighborly relations, security and stability in our area. To this end, our joint action shall be concentrated on:

i. Creating viable and vibrant market economy based on sound macro policies, greatly expanded foreign trade and private sector investment, effective and transparent customs and commercial/regulatory regimes, developing strong capital markets and diversified ownership, including privatization, leading to a widening circle of prosperity for all our citizens.

ii. Creating the conditions for individual full integration of our countries into Euro-Atlantic political, economic and security structures.

13. The major instruments, mechanisms and programs for joint cooperation in the economic field are as follows:

a. Trade and investment promotion, including removal of existing obstacles, encouraging free flows of goods, capital and commerce, facilitation of business contacts, harmonization of the legislation with EU standards, further liberalization and harmonization of trade and transport policies, conclusion of trade liberalization agreements and support for the establishment and efficient functioning of the free trade instruments.

b. Improved cross-border cooperation in view of promotion of business cooperation, enterprise development, financial cooperation and cooperation among institutions, representing the business sector, technology transfer and marketing for small and medium size enterprises; cooperation in the fields of tourism and health, particularly the sharing of resources and facilities on a cross-border basis; improvement and facilitation of information and communication flows between border regions, including media.

c. Promotion of comprehensive Programs for development of integrated regional transport infrastructure system, including projects on road, rail, air, maritime, river and lakes, as well as bridges and border-crossing infrastructure construction and development, connecting the transport system of South-Eastern Europe region to Central and Western Europe by the construction of the relevant Pan-European Corridors; rehabilitation and development of Danube as a waterway of an European importance; development of a regional network of oil and gas pipelines, part of the European network; interconnection of high voltage electrical transmission lines within the region and with the Western European system; further modernization of the telecommunication system; cooperation in all aspects of the tourism industry; development of new financial instruments, together with the international community in particular with the international financing institutions required to meet such objectives.

d. Holding of ministerial or other high-level meetings on the development of the infrastructure of the region and of regular inter-governmental meetings, at least once a year, with the participation of the representatives of official agencies, experts and business community, to encourage, monitor and implement current activities and to develop new schemes for the economic cooperation.

e. Establishing, streamlining and activating various joint regional programs, projects, centers and institutions on the basis of cost-

effectiveness, mutual interest and a fair distribution among the regional countries.

f. Encouraging consistently and systematically the official agencies, associations and business community to create and implement cooperative schemes in all areas of common interest.

II.3. Enlargement of cooperation in the fields of human dimension, democracy, justice and combating illegal activities.

14. We recognize the utmost importance of intensifying contacts and cooperation in human dimensions, social and cultural fields, developing democratic institutions and civil society, facilitating free circulation of information and ideas, as well as of citizens. We underline that our countries are attaching the highest priority to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms as an essential basis for good governance, friendship and mutual understanding. In this direction, our common endeavor shall be oriented to:

i. Bringing about mature democratic political processes, based on pluralism, free and fair elections, grounded in the rule of law and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, with legislative branches accountable to their constituents, independent judiciaries and deepening and strengthening of civil society.

ii. Promoting social harmony within our countries and in the region and recognizing the important role which respective national minorities may play as social and cultural bridges between our peoples.

15. The mechanisms and the programs of joint action in these ample areas shall cover:

a. Further development of cooperation in such fields as human dimensions, democratization, justice and rule of law, inter-ethnic tolerance, free circulation of ideas and individuals, youth education, programs to eliminate misperceptions and prejudices, all of them playing a significant role in strengthening stability and security in our region.

b. Support for enhanced cooperation in the fields of education, science and technology, cultural and art, increased exchanges and contacts between journalists and between youth, organized independently or through national associations and educational institutions, sports competitions, festivals and other events in order to bring our nations closer.

c. Respect for cultural heritage and for regional cultures, protection and restoration of monuments, if necessary through mutual assistance, constitutes another dimension in our region, where different cultures have coexisted and flourished. Besides the cooperation in relevant institutions such as UNESCO, Council of Europe and bilaterally, participating countries will seek a more advanced cooperation in these fields through their competent authorities and by encouraging non-governmental organizations in this direction.

d. Well aware of the threats which terrorism, organized crime, illicit drug and arms trafficking constitute for our peoples, as well as for our societies at large, we express our determination to strengthen the cooperation among the participating countries in these fields, by new and effective measures and joint actions and by working together with existing regional and international bodies competent in this direction.

e. Strengthening border controls to combat the activities described above, as well as illegal migration, directing national authorities to a more developed cooperation, as well as coordination and timely information exchange in these fields, as necessary, by conclusion of agreements and other instruments for cooperation; actions in these fields should respect international standards for the protection of individual rights and the freedom of circulation of the citizens, without harassment and discrimination.

f. Cooperation and joint actions for environmental protection, in particular through systematic exchange of information, bilateral and multilateral agreements and concrete common projects mainly in the border areas.

III. FINAL PROVISIONS

16. The South-East European Cooperation Process is a comprehensive framework for regional cooperation. We reaffirm our willingness to closely participate in, and cooperate with all other international organizations and regional initiatives aiming at promoting security, stability, economic and social prosperity in our area, in

particular with UN, NATO, EU, OSCE, the Council of Europe, BSEC, CEI, SECI, the Royaumont Process, and to coordinate our actions in order to avoid unnecessary duplications.

17. Taking into account the specificity of the areas of interest of other regional initiatives and considering that not all participating states of the SEECP may be taking part in such initiatives, we stress the importance of making flexible arrangements for opening relevant schemes and projects to the participation or to the benefit of all regional countries, without prejudice to the charters and regulations of the respective initiatives.

18. The South-East European Cooperation Process is open, by agreement among the participating countries, to the participation in appropriate forms to States which geographically belong to this area and declare their full adhesion to the present Charter.

19. The cooperative arrangements among a limited number of regional partners conforming to the objectives of this Charter, as well as interaction with other regional initiatives, are considered as complementary efforts to the jointly conducted cooperation between our countries as full participants or observers, as it may be relevant.

20. This Charter may be reviewed for the purpose of its updating, upon the proposal by any participating state and with the agreement of all the other participating countries.

21. The procedural aspects and follow-up mechanisms of the SEECP are included in the Annex to this Charter.

Signed at Bucharest, on 12 February 2000.

Mr. Emil Constantinescu | **Mr. Bülent Ecevit** | **Mr.Ljubco Georgievski**

Mr. Ivan Kostov | **Mr. Ilir Meta** | **Mr. Costas Simitis**

Annex

Procedural aspects and follow-up mechanisms of the South-East European Cooperation Process

1. The Heads of State and Government of the countries participating to SEECP will have yearly meetings to review the overall process of cooperation and to offer guidance and recommendations for future activities. The SEECP Summit shall be chaired by the Head of State or Government of the host country.

2. Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs are the main fora for consultations, management of the cooperation and the advancement of the objectives of the Process. The Ministers will meet at least once a year to conduct political consultations and to promote cooperation on issues of regional stability, security and political and economic cooperation.

3. These meetings will be chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the host country for a period of one year, on a rotational basis. As Chairman-in-Office, he/she may propose additional meetings or other consultative arrangements when circumstances justify or if so asked by his/her colleagues. These meetings can be arranged with restricted participation, for short duration, or on the margin of international events as working meetings.

4. The Committee of Political Directors will be formed by the Political Directors in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Participating States, or by representatives designated for that purpose. The Committee of Political Directors will be chaired by the representative of the host country and will meet every three months, for consultations, for the preparation and follow-up of the Summit and ministerial meetings and to carry out other activities in order to facilitate coordination and consultations on matters of common interest. It will report to the Ministers. The Committee may also be

convened for restricted sessions with the participation of the representatives of the full participating countries only.

5. Due to its role to facilitate coordination and consultation, the Committee will monitor the progress and developments on subjects mentioned in this Charter and on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Summits and ministerial meetings. It will also act as a focal point to prepare and facilitate the task of the Ministers to streamline and enhance cooperation and will conduct consultations on other issues brought to its attention by members.

6. The Committee of Political Directors may establish expert groups and task forces on areas of cooperation indicated in the ministerial decisions.

7. Sectorial ministerial or high officials meetings may be organized upon decisions or recommendation of the Summit or Foreign Ministers meetings. The Sectorial meetings may be organized by any of the participating country which launched such initiatives.

8. In order to assure the continuity of the activities, a Troika of the SEECP will be set-up at the ministerial level, political directors and other high officials levels. The Troika, formed by the representatives of the current, past and future SEECP Chairman-in-Office, performs fact-finding and observation missions or any other tasks entrusted to them by the ministerial meetings.

9. The Chairman-in-Office will nominate a coordinator and the participating countries will nominate representatives, as contact points, in order to facilitate correspondence, to collect national contributions and relevant information.

10. The Chairman-in-Office or his representative will represent the SEECP in the meetings of other international organizations and regional initiatives, when invited.

11. Secretarial services will be provided by the country of the Chairman in Office and, when necessary, with the assistance of other participating countries.

12. Decisions of the meetings of the Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Political Directors, including those regarding the participation, are taken by consensus, which is understood as absence of objection.

13. The chairman of the Committee of Political Directors will prepare and distribute before the meeting a draft report on the activities and on the agenda items. The chairman and the members may also present non-binding, informative working papers to the Committee.

14. The SEECP is open to the countries in the South-Eastern Europe. These countries could take part in the meetings of Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Political Directors, as full participants or observers, as they may wish and following the decisions taken by consensus.

15. The plenary sessions of the SEECP ministerial meetings may be attended by special invitees representing countries outside the region and international organizations or regional initiatives. The invitations will be sent by the Chairman-in-Office by agreement among the participating countries.

16. The observers and the special invitees to the SEECP plenary meetings may take the floor, if they so wish, with prior consultation with the participating countries.

17. The SEECP, through the Chairman-in-Office, will maintain working contacts with other international organizations and regional initiatives.

18. The Chairman-in-Office may inform interested countries outside the region, as well as the international organizations and regional initiatives, on the deliberations in the SEECP meetings, the common positions and the documents adopted on matters of common concern.

United Nations A/54/782

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Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 151 (a)
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Death and disability benefits

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on death and disability benefits (A/C.5/54/47). During its consideration of the note, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. The note by the Secretary-General constitutes the tenth quarterly report submitted in accordance with paragraphs 16 and 17 of General Assembly resolution 51/239 A of 17 June 1997, in which the Assembly noted that as at 19 May 1997 a backlog of 564 death and disability claims awaited processing and requested the Secretary-General to submit quarterly reports on the progress made in clearing the backlog.

3. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the note, of the original 564 death and disability claims that were awaiting processing as at 19 May 1997, 19 cases remained as at 31 December 1999. The Advisory Committee was informed that as at 20 February 2000 a further 12 cases had been settled, leaving 7 cases pending out of the original backlogged cases. It was recommended in paragraph 6 of the note that the tenth quarterly progress report be the last report submitted pursuant to paragraphs 16 and 17 of General Assembly resolution 51/239 A.

4. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the quarterly notes provide valuable information to the General Assembly on the status of death and disability claims. Therefore, while there is no need to continue to report on the backlog of cases as at 19 May 1997, the Committee recommends that annual reports be submitted on the status of all death and disability claims.

5. The Advisory Committee is of the view that some of the information contained in the tables annexed to the note is confusing. Upon enquiry regarding the very large total of 4,833 incidents reported, as indicated in table C, the Committee was informed that the total included all incidents reported and the likelihood was that many of them would not result in claims. Some, in fact, did not involve injuries that had been incurred in the performance of duties, however, it is felt that it is important for the database to record all reported incidents. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that a footnote be inserted to the figure for total incidents reported to the effect that the figure includes all reported cases and that not all reported cases will necessarily lead to claims.

6. The Advisory Committee is also of the opinion that the information contained in the tables could be more complete. In this connection, the Committee

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recommends that, in the future, the information given on incidents reported should distinguish between accidents, injuries and deaths. Tables should also include information on the total number of claims, the number of claims being processed and the number of claims settled, as well as the dollar amounts involved. In the view of the Committee, some assessment could also be given regarding which incidents are likely to lead to claims.